

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 69

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION urging the legislative council to assign to the appropriate study committee the topic of mandated insurance coverage for Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS).

Niezgodski

April 4, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Health and Provider Services.



SENATE RESOLUTION No. 69

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION urging the legislative council
2 to assign to the appropriate study committee the topic of
3 mandated insurance coverage for Pediatric Autoimmune
4 Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal
5 Infections (PANDAS).

6 *Whereas, PANDAS are disorders in which antibodies*
7 *attack the brain after fighting a streptococcal infection. The*
8 *symptoms commonly manifest as psychiatric disorders such as*
9 *obsessive-compulsive disorder, Tourette's, and other behavioral*
10 *symptoms;*

11 *Whereas, PANDAS may have detrimental effects on a*
12 *person's physical and financial well-being. The most promising*
13 *treatment option, called IV/IG Therapy (Intravenous*
14 *Immunoglobulin therapy) "resets" the immune system.*
15 *However, the expenses of this therapy often make it essentially*
16 *inaccessible to those who need it, as there is no mandated*
17 *insurance coverage for this treatment;*

18 *Whereas, When a person's diagnosis is not covered by their*
19 *insurance plan, it may cause serious financial problems that*
20 *often lead to further negative health outcomes. Many people in*



1 *Indiana suffering from less common diagnoses understand the*
 2 *challenges that commonly arise with limited insurance*
 3 *coverage;*

4 *Whereas, A lack of consensus in the medical community*
 5 *about the legitimacy of PANDAS has contributed to difficulties*
 6 *in treating these disorders, much less providing insurance*
 7 *coverage. However, the disorder is becoming more*
 8 *well-recognized and in May 2019, the World Health*
 9 *Organization will be voting to add PANDAS to the*
 10 *International Medical Code;*

11 *Whereas, Indiana has already introduced legislation to*
 12 *improve coverage for people suffering from PANDAS. In 2018*
 13 *the Indiana General Assembly drafted Senate Bill 412, titled*
 14 *"Coverage for Pediatric Neuropsychiatric Disorders", but the*
 15 *bill was not granted a committee hearing;*

16 *Whereas, Other states have recognized the insurance*
 17 *challenges that individuals with PANDAS are facing and have*
 18 *responded with legislation. In 2017, Illinois passed House Bill*
 19 *2721 to mandate coverage for PANDAS, and this policy was*
 20 *partly a result of a 2016 law that convened an advisory board*
 21 *to study PANDAS; and*

22 *Whereas, Indiana should study the issue of mandated*
 23 *coverage for PANDAS. Studying the issue will help to advise*
 24 *policy that could ensure all Hoosiers have the opportunity to*
 25 *purchase insurance that will undeniably cover them in the event*
 26 *that they are impacted by this type of disorder: Therefore,*

27 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the*
 28 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

29 SECTION 1. That the legislative council is urged to assign to the
 30 appropriate study committee the topic of mandated insurance coverage for
 31 Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with
 32 Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS) in order to promote better



- 1 healthcare policies for Indiana residents.

