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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 317 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY EMRICK, DAVIS, BENNINGHOFF, V. BROWN, CALTAGIRONE,  
D. COSTA, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, DUSH, FREEMAN, GILLEN,  
HENNESSEY, HILL-EVANS, KINSEY, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MILLARD,  
B. MILLER, MURT, NEILSON, O'NEILL, PICKETT, READSHAW, RYAN,  
SOLOMON, SONNEY, WARD, WARREN AND WHEELAND, MAY 5, 2017

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MAY 5, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the need to raise awareness of pediatric acute-  
2 onset neuropsychiatric syndrome and pediatric autoimmune  
3 neuropsychiatric disorder associated with streptococcal  
4 infections in Pennsylvania.

5 WHEREAS, Pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome  
6 (PANS) and pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorder  
7 associated with streptococcal infections (PANDAS) create the  
8 sudden onset of obsessive compulsive disorder in children,  
9 causing previously healthy and emotionally adjusted children to  
10 experience severe anxiety and emotional disturbances; and

11 WHEREAS, Children with PANS and PANDAS tend to manifest  
12 symptoms including, but not limited to, tics or other abnormal  
13 movements, severe separation anxiety, generalized anxiety,  
14 irritability, aggression, personality changes, ADHD, marked  
15 deterioration in learning and school performance, extreme  
16 oversensitivity of the five senses, sleep disturbances and  
17 developmental regression, including deterioration in

1 handwriting; and

2 WHEREAS, PANS is broader than PANDAS as PANS includes  
3 disorders associated with a preceding infection such as  
4 mycoplasma pneumoniae, mononucleosis, Lyme disease and viruses,  
5 the bacterial immunity to antibiotics and acute-onset  
6 noninfectious triggers to environmental factors and metabolic  
7 dysfunctions; and

8 WHEREAS, Treatment plans for PANDAS should be similar to  
9 those for PANS; and

10 WHEREAS, Children with PANS and PANDAS may experience  
11 moderate to dramatic improvement with antibiotics, intravenous  
12 immunoglobulin treatment or plasmapheresis; and

13 WHEREAS, Researchers at the National Institute of Mental  
14 Health are currently engaged in extensive research and testing  
15 on how to effectively treat PANS and PANDAS; and

16 WHEREAS, PANS and PANDAS are commonly misdiagnosed because  
17 symptoms are mistaken for behavioral problems or rebellious  
18 developmental stages; and

19 WHEREAS, It is estimated that PANS and PANDAS affect  
20 approximately 1 out of every 200 children in the United States  
21 and could become as common as pediatric cancer and pediatric  
22 diabetes; and

23 WHEREAS, Educating the public is imperative in order to  
24 increase awareness of PANS and PANDAS and to continue and expand  
25 research of these serious health disorders; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
27 need to raise awareness for pediatric acute-onset  
28 neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS) and pediatric autoimmune  
29 neuropsychiatric disorder associated with streptococcal  
30 infections (PANDAS) in Pennsylvania; and be it further

1       RESOLVED, That educating of the public, educators, medical  
2 professionals and parents and guardians is imperative to arm  
3 individuals who care for children experiencing PANS and PANDAS  
4 with the knowledge to advocate for improving the health care of  
5 children affected by these disorders.