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Michigan PANS/PANDAS Alliance Applauds Introduction of Bipartisan House Bill 6148 to Improve Access to Care for Children with PANS and PANDAS

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan PANS/PANDAS Alliance today applauded the introduction of House Bill 6148, sponsored by State Representative Jay DeBoyer (R-Clay Township), bipartisan legislation to ensure Michigan children diagnosed with Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS) and Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS) have access to medically necessary diagnosis and treatment through their health insurance coverage.

House Bill 6148 is the House companion to Senate Bill 447, introduced by Senator Kevin Hertel (D-St. Clair Shores). Together, the companion bills reflect strong bipartisan support for addressing the significant barriers many Michigan families face when seeking treatment for these serious autoimmune disorders.

PANS and PANDAS are rare but debilitating conditions that can trigger the sudden onset of obsessive-compulsive behaviors, severe anxiety, motor and vocal tics, eating restrictions, emotional instability, cognitive impairment, and other neuropsychiatric symptoms following an infection. Early diagnosis and timely, evidence-based treatment are critical to improving outcomes, yet many families continue to encounter insurance denials and delays that prevent children from receiving appropriate care.

"When a child experiences the sudden onset of PANS or PANDAS, families need to focus on getting treatment—not fighting with their insurance company," said Rep. Jay DeBoyer. "House Bill 6148 is a commonsense, bipartisan solution that helps ensure medically necessary care is available to Michigan children. I'm proud to work with Senator Hertel, Representative Breen, and advocates across the state to remove unnecessary barriers so families can access the care their children deserve."

Representative Kelly Breen (D-Novi), a co-sponsor of House Bill 6148, emphasized the importance of ensuring families have access to timely care.

"Families facing a PANS or PANDAS diagnosis are already navigating an incredibly difficult medical journey," said Rep. Kelly Breen. "They should not have to spend precious time battling

insurance denials for treatments their physicians determine are medically necessary. This bipartisan legislation puts children and families first by helping ensure they receive the care they need when they need it most."

Senator Kevin Hertel, sponsor of Senate Bill 447, said the legislation is grounded in the experiences of Michigan families.

"When the Senate Health Policy Committee heard testimony on Senate Bill 447 last December, we heard directly from parents whose children were denied medically necessary treatment despite physician recommendations," said Sen. Kevin Hertel. "Those stories underscored the urgent need to improve access to care and remove unnecessary insurance barriers. I'm encouraged to see this bipartisan effort continue in the House through Representative DeBoyer's leadership."

Bruce Goodman, Chair of the Michigan PANS/PANDAS Alliance, said the legislation reflects years of advocacy by families across the state.

"PANS and PANDAS can change a child's life almost overnight, disrupting their health, education, and sense of safety. When a child is in crisis, parents need answers and access to treatment—not delays, denials, and red tape."

Goodman added that the legislation is the result of persistent advocacy by families determined to improve access to care.

"This legislation is about listening to families who have spent too long battling both a devastating condition and an insurance system that too often fails them. Their voices, their advocacy, and their experiences made it clear that Michigan must act."

The Michigan PANS/PANDAS Alliance commends Representatives DeBoyer and Breen, Senator Hertel, and the growing bipartisan coalition of lawmakers committed to ensuring children living with PANS and PANDAS receive timely access to medically necessary care. The Alliance also recognizes the courageous parents, physicians, and patients who have shared their personal experiences to educate policymakers about the challenges these families face.

The Alliance encourages members of the Legislature to support House Bill 6148 and Senate Bill 447 and help ensure that no Michigan family is denied access to medically necessary treatment because of unnecessary insurance barriers.

About the Michigan PANS/PANDAS Alliance

The Michigan PANS/PANDAS Alliance is a statewide coalition of families, physicians, healthcare providers, researchers, and advocates dedicated to improving awareness, diagnosis, treatment, and insurance coverage for children living with Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS) and Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS). The Alliance works to advance policies that ensure every Michigan child has timely access to evidence-based, medically necessary care.

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