



2017 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 74

September 7, 2017 - Introduced by Representatives POPE, ANDERSON, BERCEAU, BOWEN, HEBL, HORLACHER, KLEEFISCH, MILROY, SARGENT, SUBECK, C. TAYLOR, VRUWINK and WACHS, cosponsored by Senators ERPENBACH, BEWLEY and RINGHAND. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** proclaiming October 9, 2017, as PANDAS and PANS Awareness Day.

2 Whereas, it is the custom of this legislative body to recognize official days to
3 increase awareness of serious illnesses that affect the lives of citizens of Wisconsin
4 such as PANDAS (Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated
5 with Streptococcal Infections) and PANS (Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric
6 Syndrome); and

7 Whereas, a diagnosis of PANDAS or PANS means a child has a sudden,
8 dramatic change in personality displayed as obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD)
9 together with accompanying symptoms following a strep, bacterial, or viral infection.
10 The OCD can display as intense fear or anxiety. Accompanying symptoms may
11 include tics, anxiety, depression, behavioral regression, deterioration in school
12 performance, sensory sensitivities, severely restricted food intake, and more; and

13 Whereas, researchers have begun to substantiate that this syndrome involves
14 a misdirected autoimmune process that affects or weakens the blood-brain barrier.
15 The inflammatory process irritates a region of the brain that manages a variety of

1 functions such as movement, cognitive perception, habit, executive “logic-based”
2 thinking, emotions, and the endocrine system; and

3 Whereas, a conservative estimate of prevalence is 162,000 in the United States
4 and 7,000 in Wisconsin alone; PANDAS/PANS is likely as common as pediatric
5 cancer and pediatric diabetes and can seriously affect the healthy outcome of a child’s
6 life; and

7 Whereas, the National Institute of Mental Health estimates that up to 30
8 percent of children being treated for mental health disorders could be restored to
9 health by proper diagnosis and treatment of PANS and PANDAS; and

10 Whereas, PANDAS/PANS is often misdiagnosed and undertreated. Treatment
11 varies by the needs of the child, but may include antibiotics, steroids, IVIG
12 (intravenous immunoglobulin), plasmapheresis, cognitive behavioral therapy, and
13 anti-inflammatory medications; and

14 Whereas, PANDASNetwork.org is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit corporation dedicated
15 to improving the diagnosis and treatment of children with PANDAS/PANS.
16 PANDAS Network is also a conduit for researchers to navigate collaborations and for
17 the medical community to find information; and

18 Whereas, it is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this health
19 issue, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, state, and national
20 levels; now, therefore, be it

21 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the legislature
22 proclaims October 9, 2017, as PANDAS and PANS Awareness Day; and, be it further

23 ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint
24 resolution to Scott and Erica Guetzlaff of Oregon, WI who are working to raise
25 awareness of PANS and PANDAS on behalf of their daughter; and, be it further

