



## 2013 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 50

1       **Relating to:** proclaiming October 9, 2013, as PANDAS, PITAND, and PANS  
2           Awareness Day.

3           Whereas, PANDAS (Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders  
4       Associated with Streptococcal Infections) is the sudden onset of  
5       obsessive-compulsive disorder, often displayed as severe anxiety and emotional  
6       disturbances, plus two or more of the following symptoms: tics or other abnormal  
7       movements, severe separation anxiety, generalized anxiety, irritability, emotional  
8       lability, aggression, personality changes, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder,  
9       inability to concentrate, sensory sensitivities, deterioration in learning abilities and  
10      school performance, developmental and age regression (including deterioration in  
11      handwriting), sleep and nighttime difficulties, or urinary frequency or daytime or  
12      nighttime secondary enuresis; and

13           Whereas, the onset of symptoms corresponds to an infection, usually strep; and

1           Whereas, PANDAS children may have moderate to dramatic improvement  
2 with antibiotics within one week of treatment; however, further intervention may be  
3 needed; and

4           Whereas, how to stop the entire syndrome is still debated, but many parents  
5 and doctors report prolonged (two months to one year) antibiotic and intravenous  
6 immunoglobulin treatment or plasmapheresis have beneficial effects; and

7           Whereas, PITAND (Pediatric Infection–Triggered Autoimmune  
8 Neuropsychiatric Disorders) is similar to PANDAS in terms of presentation;  
9 however, it consists of a broader list of possible triggers, not only strep, which may  
10 include mycoplasma pneumonia, mononucleosis, Lyme disease, viruses, vaccine  
11 injury, and more; and

12           Whereas, PANS (Pediatric Acute–Onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome) is a new  
13 classification introduced in the 2012 research paper “From Research Subgroup to  
14 Clinical Syndrome: Modifying the PANDAS Criteria to Describe PANS”; and

15           Whereas, PANS is broader than PANDAS and PITAND, including not only  
16 disorders associated with a preceding infection, but also acute–onset non–infectious  
17 triggers, such as environmental and metabolic triggers; and

18           Whereas, no treatment plan for this syndrome has been defined, but treatment  
19 plans similar to those for PANDAS should be attempted; and

20           Whereas, the three criteria for PANS are: abrupt, dramatic onset of  
21 obsessive–compulsive disorder or severely restricted food intake; concurrent  
22 presence of additional neuropsychiatric symptoms, with similarly severe and acute  
23 onset; and that the symptoms are not better explained by a known neurological or  
24 medical disorder; and

1           Whereas, PANDAS, PITAND, and PANS remain frequently misdiagnosed,  
2           undiagnosed, and undertreated due to the lack of awareness of these disorders on the  
3           part of the public and even the medical community; and

4           Whereas, a conservative estimate of the prevalence of PANDAS and PANS  
5           cases in the United States alone is 162,000; however, the true prevalence of PANDAS  
6           and PANS is not known; and

7           Whereas, PANDAS and PANS are likely as common as illnesses like pediatric  
8           cancer, pediatric diabetes, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and can seriously affect  
9           the healthy outcome of a child's life; and

10          Whereas, approximately 500,000 children have been diagnosed with  
11          obsessive–compulsive disorder in the United States and roughly 148,000 children  
12          have been diagnosed with Tourette syndrome in the United States, and

13          Whereas, PANDAS Network.org, founded in 2009, is a nonprofit organization  
14          that raises awareness of PANDAS onset and course of illness by providing an ongoing  
15          database of new PANDAS cases (over 1,000 tracked thus far), parent referrals to  
16          support groups and physicians, a conduit for new researchers to navigate  
17          collaborations and for new treating physicians to find the latest research, and  
18          information that is medically accurate and reviewed by the organization's scientific  
19          advisory board; and

20          Whereas, the Wisconsin PANDAS and PANS parent support group strives to  
21          build public awareness of PANDAS, PITAND, and PANS, provide ongoing family  
22          support, and gather and disseminate resources to families affected by the disorder;  
23          and

