

# PANS/PANDAS

**PANS - PEDIATRIC ACUTE-ONSET NEUROPSYCHIATRIC SYNDROME**

**PANDAS - PEDIATRIC AUTOIMMUNE NEUROPSYCHIATRIC DISORDER**

**ASSOCIATED WITH STREPTOCOCCAL INFECTIONS**

Inflammatory Brain Disorders triggered by infections, metabolic disturbances, and other inflammatory reactions

**OCCUR WHEN THE IMMUNE SYSTEM ATTACKS THE BRAIN**

## PANS/PANDAS Symptoms



- **OCD**
- **FOOD RESTRICTION**
- **TICS**



- Anxiety
- Emotional lability
- Depression
- Irritability
- Aggression



- Developmental regression
- Decline in school performance
- ADHD
- Sensory seeking / avoiding



- Balance / gait issues
- Urinary frequency / urgency
- Sleep disturbance
- Fatigue
- Hallucinations
- Selective mutism

## INTRODUCED LEGISLATION - HB513 & HB514

**HB 513** - Regarding insurance coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of PANS/PANDAS

**HB 514** - Regarding the reinstatement of the PANDAS/PANS Council.

## WHY WE NEED PANS/PANDAS LEGISLATION?

- Virginia health insurance companies routinely deny doctor-prescribed treatments, including IVIg and other immune therapies.
- Patients frequently endure months, if not years, of misdiagnosis, resulting in irreversible brain inflammation with associated profound disabilities.
- Permanent neurological damage may result in permanent dependence on the state.
- Some patients stop eating and require feeding tubes.
- Suicides have occurred, in both affected individuals and their despondent parents.
- Most of the time, at least one parent must stop working to care full-time for the ill child.
- Desperate families sell their homes to pay for medicine out-of-pocket.
- Police, ER, and child protective services are commonly involved as symptoms become increasingly erratic. Patients may be hospitalized medically or psychiatrically, resulting in more costs and unnecessary suffering due to inappropriate medical treatment.

**Through inaction, we're paying anyway!**

