

1 A RESOLUTION declaring October 9, 2020, to be PANDAS and PANS Awareness
2 Day.

3 WHEREAS, Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with
4 Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS) and Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric
5 Syndrome (PANS) create the sudden onset of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) in
6 children, causing previously healthy and emotionally adjusted children to experience
7 severe anxiety and emotional disturbances; and

8 WHEREAS, unlike in ordinary cases of OCD which often manifest gradually over
9 an extended period of time, parents of children with PANDAS and PANS can often
10 describe the exact day the child suddenly began exhibiting the symptoms of full-fledged
11 OCD; and

12 WHEREAS, children with PANDAS and PANS tend to manifest some of the
13 following symptoms: intense fear or anxiety, tics, depression, behavioral regression,
14 deterioration in school and learning performance, sensory sensitivities, and severely
15 restricted food intake; and

16 WHEREAS, PANDAS and PANS can dramatically affect the healthy outcome of a
17 child's life; and

18 WHEREAS, a conservative estimate of prevalence is 162,000 cases in the United
19 States alone makes PANDAS and PANS as common as pediatric cancer and pediatric
20 diabetes; and

21 WHEREAS, PANDAS and PANS is often misdiagnosed and undertreated due in
22 part to lack of awareness of the condition among both the general public and the medical
23 community; and

24 WHEREAS, researchers have begun to substantiate that PANDAS and PANS
25 involves a misdirected autoimmune process that affects or weakens the blood-brain
26 barrier, and the inflammatory process irritates a region of the brain that manages a variety
27 of functions such as movement, cognitive perception, habit, executive "logic-based"

1 thinking, emotions, and the endocrine system; and

2 WHEREAS, treatment varies by the needs of the child, but it may include
3 antibiotics, steroids, intravenous immunoglobulin, plasmapheresis, cognitive behavioral
4 therapy, and anti-inflammatory medications; and

5 WHEREAS, the National Institute of Mental Health and other scientific and
6 medical entities are currently engaged in research and testing on how to most effectively
7 treat PANDAS and PANS; and

8 WHEREAS, research is necessary to determine practice guidelines for the diagnosis
9 and treatment of the disorder and syndrome; and

10 WHEREAS, it is critical to develop mechanisms to increase clinical awareness and
11 education regarding the disorder and syndrome among physicians, including
12 pediatricians, school-based health centers, and providers of mental health services; and

13 WHEREAS, there is a need for outreach to educators and parents; and

14 WHEREAS, the development of a network of volunteer experts on the diagnosis
15 and treatment of the disorder and syndrome to assist in education and outreach would
16 promote awareness; and

17 WHEREAS, it is imperative that there be greater public awareness, including
18 awareness among parents and teachers of this serious health issue;

19 NOW, THEREFORE,

20 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***
21 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

22 ➔Section 1. This honorable body declares October 9, 2020, to be PANDAS and
23 PANS Awareness Day.

24 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
25 copy of this Resolution to Eric Friedlander, Acting Secretary, Cabinet for Health and
26 Family Services, 275 E. Main St., Frankfort, Kentucky 40621, for distribution to local
27 health departments, health and mental health providers, and health care facilities; and to

- 1 Keven C. Brown, Interim Commissioner, Department of Education, 300 Sower
- 2 Boulevard, 5th Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, for distribution to private and public
- 3 schools, elementary school teachers, and parents.