

# Proclamation

## by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder Associated with Streptococcal infections (PANDAS) and Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS) are serious, under-recognized, clinically diagnosed illnesses; and
- Whereas,** a diagnosis of PANDAS or PANS means a child has a sudden, dramatic change in behavior/personality displayed as Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) or disordered eating, together with other cognitive, behavioral, or neurological symptoms following a strep, bacterial, or viral infection; and
- Whereas,** children diagnosed with PANDAS or PANS can display such symptoms as anxiety, emotional lability or depression, irritability, aggression, oppositional behaviors, tics, deterioration in school performance such as loss of writing and math abilities, sensory and motor abnormalities, sleep disturbances, enuresis or urinary frequency, or more severe symptoms such as rages, hallucinations, and suicidal ideation; and
- Whereas,** researchers have substantiated that this syndrome involves a misdirected autoimmune process that affects or weakens the Blood Brain Barrier; the inflammatory process inflames a region of the brain (basal ganglia) that manages a variety of functions such as gross and fine motor functions, cognitive functions, executive "logic based" thinking, emotions, memory, motivation, behavior; and
- Whereas,** PANDAS/PANS is often misdiagnosed and undertreated; treatment varies by the needs of the child, but should include treating the source/sources of infection, treating immune system dysfunction, and treating the symptoms, which could include antibiotics, steroids, IVIG (intravenous immunoglobulin), Plasmapheresis, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy; and
- Whereas,** the prevalence of PANDAS/PANS is unknown, but a conservative estimate is 1 in 200, as children are often misdiagnosed as having a mental illness; and
- Whereas,** PANDAS/PANS, if identified and treated promptly, may experience moderate to dramatic improvement following treatment with antibiotics and steroids; early treatment is critical; and
- Whereas,** the organizations SEPPA (Southeastern PANS/PANDAS Association) and ASPIRE: The Alliance to Solve PANS and Immune-Related Encephalopathies strive to build public awareness, educate medical providers about the illness and treatments for same, build support for legislation involving the illness, and provide support and resources for families affected by PANDAS/PANS, in accordance with section 501 (c)(3).

**Now, Therefore,** Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim **October 9, 2024** as:

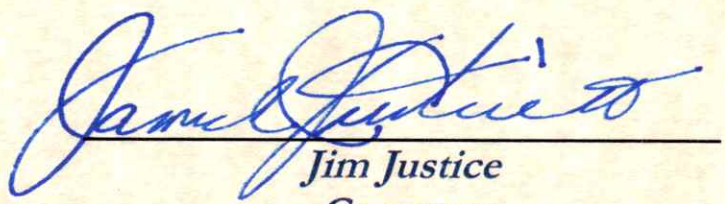
### ***PANDAS/PANS Awareness Day***

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in observance.


**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

**Done** at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Thirtieth day of July, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Four, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Second year of the State.



  
Jim Justice  
Governor

*By the Governor:*

  
Mac Warner  
Secretary of State