

# Proclamation

## by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS) and Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS) are serious clinically diagnosed illnesses; and
- Whereas,** a diagnosis of PANDAS or PANS means a child has a sudden, dramatic change in personality displayed as Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) together with accompanying 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 begun to substantiate that this syndrome involves a misdirected autoimmune process that affects or weakens the Blood Brain Barrier; the inflammatory process irritates a region of the brain that manages a variety of functions such as movement, cognitive perception, habit, executive "logic based" thinking, emotions, and the endocrine system; and
- Whereas,** PANDAS/PANS is often misdiagnosed and undertreated; treatment varies by the needs of the child, but may include antibiotics, steroids, IVIG (intravenous immunoglobulin), Plasmapheresis, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and anti-inflammatory medications; and
- Whereas,** the prevalence of PANDAS/PANS is yet to be known, but a conservative estimate is 1 in 200 persons in the United States are affected; 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 disorder and treatments for same, build support for legislation involving the disorder, and provide support and resources for families affected by PANDAS/PANS, in accordance with section 501(c)(3).

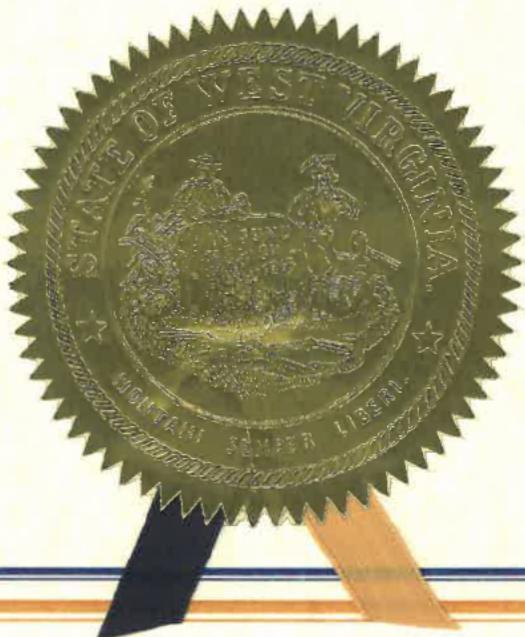
**Now, Therefore,** Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *October 9, 2022* as:

### *PANDAS/PANS Awareness Day*

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this 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 Nineteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Two, and in the One Hundred Twentieth year of the State.



  
Jim Justice  
Governor

*By the Governor:*

  
Mac Warner  
Secretary of State