



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, there is a need to increase public awareness of the serious illnesses PANDAS (Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections) and PANS (Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome); 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; the OCD can display as intense fear or anxiety, and accompanying symptoms may include tics, anxiety, depression, behavioral regression, deterioration in school performance, sensory sensitivities, severely restricted food intake, and more; 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, one in every 200 children in the United States, with 8,000 of those affected children residing in Tennessee; PANDAS/PANS is likely as common as pediatric cancer and pediatric diabetes; and

WHEREAS, PANDAS/PANS is often misdiagnosed and undertreated; treatment varies by the needs of the individual child but may include antibiotics, steroids, plasmapheresis, cognitive behavioral therapy, anti-inflammatory medications, and IVIG (intravenous immunoglobulin therapy); and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that we work towards greater public awareness of this serious health issue and support efforts to increase education in the areas of identifying and combating PANDAS/PANS;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee do hereby proclaim October 9, 2023 as

PANS / PANDAS Awareness Day

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this third day of October 2023.

Bill Lee

Governor

Justin D. ...

Secretary of State