

House Resolution 361

By: Representatives Dreyer of the 59th, Bennett of the 94th, Jackson of the 64th, Bonner of the 72nd, Smith of the 134th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing October 9, 2019, as PANDAS Awareness Day at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS) and pediatric
4 autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorder associated with streptococcal infection (PANDAS)
5 create the sudden onset of obsessive-compulsive disorder, tic disorders, and/or restrictive
6 eating in children, causing previously healthy and emotionally adjusted children to
7 experience severe anxiety and emotional disturbances; and

8 WHEREAS, children with PANS and PANDAS tend to manifest some of the following
9 symptoms: tics or other abnormal movements, severe separation anxiety, generalized anxiety,
10 irritability, aggression, personality changes, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, marked
11 deterioration in learning and school performance, and developmental regression, including
12 regression in handwriting; and

13 WHEREAS, children with PANS and PANDAS may experience a moderate to dramatic
14 improvement with antibiotics, intravenous immunoglobulin treatment, or plasmapheresis;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, researchers at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) are currently
17 engaged in extensive research and testing on how to effectively treat PANS and PANDAS;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, researchers at Moleculera Labs at the University of Oklahoma have developed
20 PANS and PANDAS blood testing procedures; and

21 WHEREAS, the University of Arizona and Banner Health System in Arizona have opened
22 the first Centers for Post-Infectious Autoimmune Encephalopathy, providing insurance based

23 access to expert care and consultative services for general and subspecialist pediatricians
24 around the country; and

25 WHEREAS, the deep medical and bioscience resources in Georgia make our state well
26 situated to meaningfully contribute to best medical practices, research, and medical
27 technology to advance the early diagnosis and treatment of children with PANS and
28 PANDAS; and

29 WHEREAS, the NIMH estimates one in 200 children have PANS or PANDAS, meaning
30 these diseases affect roughly 15,000 children in Georgia; and

31 WHEREAS, many general pediatricians, nurse practitioners, and pediatric subspecialists are
32 not familiar with the most current diagnostic criteria and treatment guidelines for these
33 disorders; and

34 WHEREAS, in addition to lack of access to treating providers, many insurers do not cover
35 treatment for PANS and PANDAS, which can cost many tens of thousands of dollars,
36 placing it out of reach for most families; and

37 WHEREAS, the Southeastern PANS/PANDAS Association is a Georgia based nonprofit
38 organization dedicated to expanding access to expert, insurance based care for children and
39 families suffering from PANS and PANDAS in this region; and

40 WHEREAS, it is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this serious health issue
41 among parents, policymakers, and medical providers in Georgia.

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
43 the members of this body recognize October 9, 2019, as PANDAS Awareness Day at the
44 state capitol.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
46 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
47 public and press.