

Dear Chairman Longbine and Members of the Insurance Committee,

Thank you for your service to the State of Kansas. I am writing to you in support of HB 2110, the PANS/PANDAS insurance coverage which was passed by the House. My family and others across the state have been negatively impacted by this disease and the lack of insurance coverage for treatment. In my personal experience my daughter was left undiagnosed for 4 1/2 years. We had no idea what we were dealing with and had no support from our pediatrician at the time. We switched pediatricians after a very bad experience where a nurse had tackled my anxiety stricken 6 year old to the floor to do a throat swab. Upon meeting our new pediatrician I began explaining our experiences with streptococcus infection and our daughters extreme anxiety, behavior and pain. She immediately diagnosed her with PANDAS and has been a complete godsend in supporting us in our journey. However, even though my daughter gets better and does amazing with antibiotics, antibiotics should not be a long term solution. Our pediatrician has done research to try and help us get to someone who is more well versed about PANDAS. The bad thing is, insurance won't pay for the treatment needed and we must travel to get to a specialist. Most of our options are looking at \$1,000 plus out of pocket just to be seen for a first visit. We have been referred to someone close but have been on the waiting list for almost a year. But again, it is not covered by insurance. We have researched many ways to help our daughter and with the help of antibiotics we are doing somewhat better but I feel lost. We need doctors that understand and can recognize what is going on with these kiddos so that they don't go undiagnosed as long as my daughter did or longer. We need help getting our kids the help that they truly need. Hard-working Kansan families, who have diligently paid premiums, deserve insurance coverage for illnesses they suffer. Early diagnosis and treatment is essential to healing the sufferers and for restoring their abilities to be healthy, productive members of society. Please support this important legislation as it works its way through the Senate chamber. I can be reached at (316-519-1161) should you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,
Alicia Chavers