

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 89

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUSTIN MILLER

INSURANCE/HEALTH: Requests a study of the costs and benefits of mandating coverage for therapies and treatments for PANS, PANDAS, and both conditions as types of AE by private insurance plans in the state of La.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Insurance to conduct a study concerning

3 health insurance coverage for therapies and treatments for pediatric acute-onset

4 neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS); pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric

5 disorders associated with streptococcal (strep) infections (PANDAS); and PANS and

6 PANDAS considered as types of autoimmune encephalitis (AE).

7 WHEREAS, according to the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences

8 of the National Institutes of Health, PANS is the clinical diagnosis of "a condition defined

9 by sudden onset of obsessive-compulsive symptoms and/or severe eating restrictions, along

10 with at least two other cognitive, behavioral, or neurological symptoms"; and

11 WHEREAS, in many cases of PANS, "there is evidence of an abnormal autoimmune

12 or inflammatory response in the brain following any of various infections in the body. When

13 the associated infection is known to be strep, the condition is called PANDAS," a subtype

14 of PANS; and

15 WHEREAS, PANS and PANDAS are also considered to be types of autoimmune

16 encephalitis (AE), an umbrella term for any type of post infectious encephalitis where the

17 immune system attacks the brain; and

18 WHEREAS, symptoms cause disruption to a child's neurological functioning and

19 may appear in episodes of anxiety, incontinence, seizures, confusion, depression, tics,

1 personality changes, declines in school performance, and changes in sensory sensitivities,
2 and may worsen or extend with each episode; and

3 WHEREAS, younger children are often misdiagnosed as having autism, and many
4 affected children meet criteria for state disability services because their symptoms are not
5 solely attributable to mental illness; and

6 WHEREAS, studies have found several therapies and treatments to be effective in
7 resolving symptoms, including but not limited to antibiotic therapy, intravenous
8 immunoglobulin treatments, antidepressant medications, cognitive behavioral therapies, and
9 certain oncology medications and plasma exchange in the most severe cases; and

10 WHEREAS, early treatment is important to prevent permanent brain injury and
11 nervous system damage, cognitive decline, mental illness that may persist into adulthood,
12 and death because the conditions are potentially fatal; and

13 WHEREAS, although therapies and treatments can help to improve the lives of
14 affected children whose overall wellbeing and futures are impacted by disruptions in
15 neurological functioning, health insurance coverage for such therapies and treatments to
16 relieve the symptoms of PANS, PANDAS, and PANS and PANDAS as types of AE is
17 generally not available.

18 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
19 urge and request the Louisiana Department of Insurance to conduct a study concerning
20 health insurance coverage for therapies and treatments for PANS, PANDAS, and PANS and
21 PANDAS as types of AE and to submit a report of its findings and recommendations from
22 the study called for in this Resolution to the House Committee on Insurance, the Senate
23 Committee on Insurance, and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library no later
24 February 1, 2023.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge
26 and request the Louisiana Department of Insurance to consider, at minimum, the extent to
27 which such coverage is currently available in this state, the potential level of demand for
28 such coverage in this state, and the costs and benefits of an expansion of such coverage in
29 this state to meet potential demand.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in carrying out the purposes of this Resolution,
2 the department may engage and solicit input, recommendations, and advice in the collection
3 of information and data from the office for citizens with developmental disabilities, persons
4 living with PANS, PANDAS, or either condition as a type of AE and their parents, issuers
5 of private health insurance plans, clinical psychologists, osteopathic physicians, neurologists,
6 psychiatrists, pediatricians, and other pertinent healthcare providers.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
8 commissioner of insurance.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 89 Original

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Dustin Miller

Requests the La. Department of Insurance to study the costs and benefits of providing health insurance coverage for therapies and treatments for PANS, PANDAS, and both conditions as a type of AE. Requests the department to report its findings and recommendations from the study on or before Feb. 1, 2023.