

Dear Sen. Leiber. My name is Michael Mueller, and I am a resident of Pennsylvania, writing as an advocate on behalf of my niece, her husband, and their two twin daughters, who are Oregon registered voters living in Corvallis, OR. Two years ago, one of their daughters contracted acute PAN/PANDAS, and since then, their lives have literally been a living Hell as they sought a diagnosis to understand how their formerly highly intelligent, creative, and loving daughter and sister turned almost overnight into a deeply neuropsychotic individual. They had to spend tens of thousands of dollars out of pocket to obtain an accurate diagnosis and to obtain IVIG treatment, which began almost immediately to restore my grandniece's health. I'm writing in support of Senate Bill 628, of which you are the chief sponsor.

This bill, if passed, will ensure all children in Oregon with PANDAS/PANS will have access to the same care that the State of Oregon provides. As you know, Medicaid coverage for IVIG was approved in May of 2022 and despite the Insurance Commissioner of Oregon issuing notice to all Oregon insurers about this advancement in coverage, Oregon insurance companies, including that providing family health insurance for employees at Oregon State University, where my niece's husband is employed, are still denying this medical treatment and delaying medical care for the sickest children in your state with P/P. As you are also aware, additionally 10 other states have passed legislation already ensuring that children in their state have access to this care. I encourage you to continue to lead this effort in support of Oregon's children like my grandniece living with P/P who also deserves this same access to care. We must not let private for-profit insurers decide to withhold medically necessary treatment that your own state provides. Thank you, and God Bless you!

Sincerely,

Michael J. Mueller
Easton, PA