

Submitter: Katherine Millis

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: SB628

My name is Katherine Millis. I'm writing to you to urge you to vote in favor of SB 628.

When I was 12 I developed PANS syndrome from a Lyme disease infection. I became a different person almost overnight, due to brain inflammation. I had hallucinations, rage, seizures, aphasia, severe OCD, and many more symptoms. I would often lose the ability to speak or write, leaving me unable to communicate effectively. I became a prisoner in my own mind, and it was terrifying.

Insurance denied treatment for IVIG, as I continued to rapidly decline. I became psychotic, no longer recognizing reality from delusions and hallucinations. I became actively suicidal and a danger to myself. My parents had to constantly watch me day and night to ensure I wouldn't hurt myself. They eventually made the difficult choice to admit me to a psychiatric hospital, knowing they could no longer keep me safe. The meds I was prescribed there didn't help because what was wrong with me wasn't just psychiatric. Eventually, I was hospitalized for IVIG treatment through the emergency room, to prevent me from taking my own life. Once I received IVIG, I immediately started becoming myself again.

After multiple treatments, I'm doing much better and have reached remission. I'm 18 now, and I'm starting college next year. Without IVIG, I wouldn't be alive today. Treatments are hard to afford, and every person with PANS deserves the second chance I got. Please vote to pass this bill so others like me can get the help they need.