

Submitter: Tonya Miller  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure: SB628

Good afternoon, Senators. Thank you for this opportunity to share a few words with you. Eight years ago my daughter was a typical fifth grade student. One day I heard her singing in the shower and I thought to myself how wonderful it was that she was getting older and how this raising kids gig was getting easier. I remember that day very distinctly. It was the last day that I remember my daughter being well. I wish I could find the right words to express exactly how awful the next three years of our lives were, but I couldn't possibly. That little girl who was singing in the shower became the little girl who was too crippled with fear to step inside that same shower. The fear of spiders crawling out of the shower head all over her body was so real to her that she would scream and cry in the shower while I washed her as quickly as I could. Nighttime was also crippled with fear. The fear that our house would burn down and our family would be left homeless caused panic attacks that would last hours. My daughter began to have hallucinations, she would scrape her arms to get the bee hives off of her skin that she thought was there. She started having tics. Eye tics, mouth tics, and the worst tic would be sniffing. She would sniff non stop and so hard that she would nearly pass out. She started having uncontrolled body movements, intrusive thoughts, and severe obsessive compulsive disorder. It got so bad that she could not go out in public. At the absolute worst point I looked at my child and grieved her death. My child was still alive, but she was gone. And I didn't know if I would ever see her again. At that time you would think our family was anything but blessed. But we were so blessed. We were blessed in that we were pointed in the right direction right away. We were blessed in that we found a doctor who knew exactly what she was doing. We were blessed with the correct diagnosis of P.A.N.S. It took a year to get my daughter well enough for a procedure called IVIG. My daughter went on to have two treatments. Those treatments each cost our family around \$12,000 out of pocket. The only way we were able to do those treatments was because, once again, we were blessed with family and loved ones that supported us financially. In our darkest, most difficult days God provided. IVIG saved my daughter. Let me say it again. IVIG saved my daughter. Today she is eighteen years old and getting ready to graduate high school. She is currently working at the Polk County Courthouse. She has a future. Before IVIG we couldn't see a future for her. Today she has so much ahead of her. She would not be where she is today without IVIG. So many children can not access the proper treatments needed to recover from P.A.N.S and P.A.N.D.A.S. It is absolutely heartbreaking to know these kids would also have a future with these treatments. Without the proper treatments these kids are left to suffer. Living with P.A.N.S./P.A.N.D.A.S. is the worst kind of nightmare you can imagine. It caused my daughter to wish for her life to end. She would rather have died than continued living that way. Thankfully my daughter got the

help she needed before she took such drastic measures. Some kids can't hold on. Some have ended their lives knowing that there was no other way out. We can not let this continue to happen. We can not wait until a child commits suicide to step up and make a change in our state. Please. Please, help us prevent such unnecessary tragedy. Help us pass SB 628. Give these kids their future back.