

February 8, 2023

Subject: Letter in support of Oregon Senate Bill 628 on insurance coverage for PANDAS/PANS

My name is Gary H. Zeman, Sc.D., CHP and I am writing in support of Senate Bill 628 on behalf of my Granddaughter Stella Sarbacker who lives in Corvallis Oregon. I am a certified Health Physicist holding the Doctor of Science degree from The Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health.

My Granddaughter Stella has been diagnosed and is being treated for PANDAS/PANS in Oregon. Senate Bill 628 is a bill to ensure all children in Oregon with PANDAS/PANS have access to the same care that the State of Oregon provides. 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 are still denying this medical treatment and delaying medical care for the sickest children in our state with P/P. Additionally, 10 other states have passed legislation already ensuring that children in their state have access to this care.

Please stand in support of Oregon's children who also deserve this same access to care. Don't let insurers decide to withhold medically necessary treatment that our own state provides. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gary H. Zeman, Sc.D., CHP