



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## **TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE February 27, 2013**

*Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA, Commissioner (860) 509-7101*

### ***Senate Bill 360 - An Act Concerning Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder Associated With Streptococcal Infections***

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The Department of Public Health provides the following information with regard to Senate Bill 360, which would establish an outreach and education program for health care providers for the recognition of and treatment options for pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorder associated with streptococcal infections (PANDAS).

This bill is similar to Senate Bill 956, which is being considered by the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. Senate Bill 956 and gives implementation responsibility to the Department of Public Health. PANDAS was first described in 1998. In the United States, research on this disorder is led by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). In 2012, medical researchers from the NIMH, Yale University, and Johns Hopkins University defined a new syndrome called Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS), which includes PANDAS. PANS affects children and teens that suddenly develop on-again/off-again obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) or abnormal eating behaviors, along with other psychiatric symptoms without any known cause. This is a mental health disorder affecting children and does not fall within the purview of the Department of Public Health. Furthermore, the Department of Public Health does not have staff with subject matter expertise related to this disorder.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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