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Senator Crisco, Representative Megna, & the members of the Insurance & Real Estate Committee.

I have been a registered nurse for over 25 yrs. But today I am here as a parent of a child w/ PANDAS.

Six years ago a good friend's son had terrible motor tics, O.C.D., anxiety & rage. His symptoms worsened for almost 3 yrs. until my friend saw a story on The Today Show about PANDAS. She then finally got a proper diagnosis & her son is on the road to recovery. She & her family spent thousands of dollars trying to get answers for their son.

This was the first time I had ever heard of PANDAS. I was lucky I did, because my daughter developed a motor tic 2 yrs. later. I immediately went to our pediatrician & received a positive Strep throat culture. She then was diagnosed w/ PANDAS & started on a course of antibiotics & recovered quickly. Because of an early diagnosis my daughter has had very few problems. We are the lucky ones. Many families aren't so lucky.

With the passage of SB 15 more physicians would be knowledgeable about PANDAS & the extraordinary costs of this disease would be minimized.