

CT General Assembly
Insurance & Real Estate Committee Public Hearing

February 3, 2015

Testimony in Support of SB 15, AAC Health Insurance Coverage for Pediatric
Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder Associated with Streptococcal Infections

Dear Senator Crisco, Rep. Megna and members of the committee.

My name is Paul Ryan, I am a public member of the Arizona House Committee on Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders, and I strongly applaud and support your efforts to pass SB15. Quite frankly, insurance coverage for affected children and their families, is an essential ingredient in solving the serious and treatable conditions caused by neurological disorders like Pans/Pandas.

Over the past year, the state of Arizona has been quite active in addressing the whole spectrum of pediatric neurological diseases, including PANS and PANDAS. In 2013 the state legislature passed Senate Resolution 1007, which declared October 9th of each year as Pans/Pandas Awareness Day. Additionally, the Arizona House of Representatives has also established a formal committee named the Committee on Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder. It is the charter of that committee, which includes in its membership representatives of the insurance industry, to raise public and physician awareness about these diseases. It is also this committee's goal, to provide enough medical expertise to treat these children while simultaneously setting up a base of data to facilitate ongoing research. Recent activities, including medical Grand Rounds by experts at the NIH/NIMH, have been conducted to prepare one of our leading medical universities to provided world class expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric neurological disorders like Pans/Pandas.

While a number of states have taken different paths to addressing these dreaded childhood diseases, the common goal is to offer all of our citizens tangible and identifiable relief for these very pernicious diseases. I hope the elected officials in Connecticut recognize the seriousness and the pressing need for the expeditious passage of your bill.

Hopefully our two states can provide a leadership example for the rest of the country.

Respectfully,

Paul Ryan
Public Member of the Arizona House Committee of Pediatric Neurological Disorders