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February 3, 2015

**Senate Bill 15**

**Testimony opposing AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTH INSURANCE  
COVERAGE FOR PEDIATRIC AUTOIMMUNE NEUROPSYCHIATRIC  
DISORDER ASSOCIATED WITH STREPTOCOCCAL INFECTIONS.**

The American Academy of Pediatrics does not endorse treatment of PANDAS and does not consider evidence for benefit of antibiotics or IVIG to be sufficiently compelling to recommend such treatment. Antibiotic use contributes to antibiotic resistance in the community and IVIG is very expensive and is associated with serious side effects, such as serious allergic reaction, irritation of the lining around your brain, kidney problem, blood clot, liver problem or a blood problem, serious heart or lung problem, or infection.

While there are individual parents who feel they have been helped by these treatments there is no information about the children who have not improved. The backbone of scientific evaluation for new therapies are double-blind randomized controlled trials. Trials of sufficient size have not shown significant benefit for PANDAS as yet.

The national leaders in streptococcal disease have not included PANDAS in reviews and recommendations for treatment of streptococcal illnesses. Neither the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Sections at Yale nor at Connecticut Children's Hospital are willing to make the diagnosis of PANDAS nor will they treat children labeled with this disorder.

*The Red Book* which is the most authoritative source for treatment recommendations for Pediatric infectious diseases does not endorse this diagnosis nor recommend treatment for PANDAS as an infectious disease. (Attached, please find the actual position from the *Red Book*.)

In sum, state support for PANDAS treatment by the Connecticut legislature would at this time be support for a diagnosis that is outside the mainstream of US pediatric practice.

Finally, the Pandas/Pans Advisory Committee included proponents of treatment that included members with a significant conflict of interest (professionals mainly involved in treatment of PANDAS in private practice, those involved money raising for family support groups, and lobbyists). Materials handed out to members did not include the scientific literature and opinions fostered by the American Academy of Pediatrics and other mainstream medical organizations that cast doubt on the validity of Streptococcal infections as a cause of tic and OCD disorders.