

Members of the Committee,

My name is Emily Crews, a resident of New Windsor, MD, and a constituent from District 5. I am writing to ask for your support of MD HB15.

I am a first grade teacher in Carroll County and currently have two students in my class who suffer from PANDAS. My students both have a 504 and require daily breaks with an adult. You can imagine how difficult this can be in a school where resources are already limited. My students require these breaks with an adult due to the nature of the anxiety the disease creates. They need a chance to decompress, participate in a sensory activity and speak with support staff before returning to class at least two times per day. In order to attend the 504 meetings, I require coverage for my class, which at times pulls from the resources that are already being utilized to provide extra support.

In addition, I see first hand the financial strain this places on middle-class families. Not only are they paying for all of their child's treatment out-of-pocket, they are also required to take time off of work to come to 504 meetings at the school, stay home when their child is sick or a virus is working it's way through our classroom as to avoid a flare of symptoms requiring them to take more time off of work, potentially putting their jobs at risk. With more accessible treatment, parents would not be required to take as much time from work, as the disease would be better managed.

If you are able to meet in person, or speak on the phone, I would like to discuss how HB 447 and SB 475 will improve the conditions for many Maryland families impacted by this disorder. Please contact me to set up a time when we can discuss this important legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 443-605-2199 or [emilycrews@gmail.com](mailto:emilycrews@gmail.com).

I look forward to the opportunity to discuss this important matter with you.

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