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Health and Government Operations
Committee

Subcommittees
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The Maryland House of Delegates
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Sponsor Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 447
Health Insurance - Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders -
Coverage
(PANDAS)
February 6, 2020

House Bill 447 requires insurance carriers to provide coverage for medically necessary diagnosis, evaluation, and treatment of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections (PANDAS) and pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome (PANS), including the use of intravenous immunoglobulin therapy (IVIG). Beginning January 1, 2021, Medicaid, subject to the limitations of the State budget, must provide similar coverage for eligible program recipients. The bill also specifies how PANDAS and PANS must be coded for billing and diagnosis purposes.

HB447 implements recommendations from a Maryland Insurance Administration workgroup that convened thanks to the leadership of this committee.

PANDAS and PANS are serious medical conditions that affect many young Marylanders. A strep infection manifests with behavioral symptoms. The condition can be difficult to diagnose but awareness is improving. With proper treatment such as intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG), PANDAS patients can experience improved outcomes. However Treatment is expensive and there can be gaps in insurance coverage.

I am pleased that Carefirst recently began covering PANDAS/PANS treatments.

I look forward to working with the committee on House Bill 447 and I ask for your favorable report.