

HB447

Support

Ann L. Clever
February 3, 2020

My name is Ann Clever, a resident of Baltimore County, at 716 Woodsdale Rd., Catonsville, 21228. I am writing to ask for your support of House Bill 447.

My two sons suffer from PANDAS/PANS, the elder since 2014, and the younger since 2016. This horrible illness turned our family upside down for several years. I wish our older son had been diagnosed right away, but for more than a year and a half we couldn't find a doctor who could explain the terrible changes that had come over him. He suffered from hallucinations, rages, nightmares, depression, OCD and huge motor tics. All because of strep. We were fortunate to eventually find a PANDAS doctor, and to have that doctor available when our younger son became ill.

We are now in a frantic search for a new provider, as their doctor has retired. We are having great difficulty finding someone who is trained to treat PANDAS/PANS. We also face difficulty in affording the care despite having health insurance. We spend thousands of unreimbursed dollars each year trying to provide treatment for our children and have liquidated our savings.

Families like ours desperately need more PANDAS/PANS treatment providers - our one lifeline has retired and we are so discouraged. These kids need to be diagnosed promptly to have the best outcomes, and they deserve to have their very necessary treatments, such as IVIG, covered by insurance.

Passage of this bill will have a positive impact on our schools and communities. PANDAS has had an enormous impact on our children's school performance and attendance. Our younger son still requires a one-on-one aide to assist him at school.

I hope you will support our Maryland children by passing HB447.

Ann L. Clever
716 Woodsdale Rd.
Catonsville, MD 21228

