



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

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Support

HB 447 – Health Insurance – Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders - Coverage

House Health and Government Operations Committee

February 6, 2019

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports *House Bill 447 – Health Insurance – Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders – Coverage*. This bill requires coverage of pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome in Medicaid and State-regulated commercial plans.

Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS) and Pediatric Acute Onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS) are autoimmune neuropsychiatric conditions that affect children suddenly following an infection, including streptococcal (strep throat) infections. Children with PANDAS and PANS most often show symptoms related to both behavioral and physical health, including changes in mood, obsessive behaviors, separation anxiety, and changes in motor skills such as handwriting.

As health care practitioners working with children in both community and education settings, we know first-hand that it is critical to promptly treat health conditions when they occur. When PANDAS and PANS are not properly diagnosed and treated, a child's condition may exacerbate over time even if the child is receiving other health services from a mental health provider or occupational therapist to treat the symptoms.

MOTA supports HB 447 to ensure children with PANDAS and PANS can access effective treatments, including intravenous immunoglobulin therapy.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony. If you need any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at (443) 926-3443 or relliott@policypartners.net.