

**State of Vermont  
Executive Department  
A Proclamation**

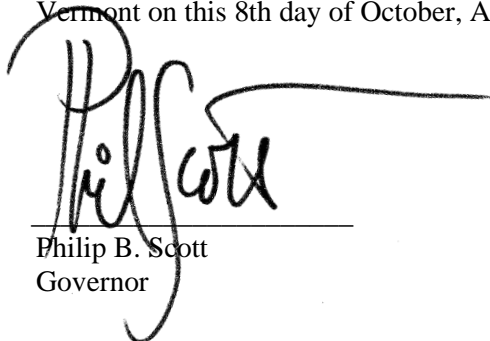
- WHEREAS,** Vermont is committed to raising awareness of the diseases known as Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections (PANDAS) and Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndromes (PANS); and
- WHEREAS,** a diagnosis of PANDAS or PANS means a child has a sudden, dramatic change in personality displayed as obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) together with accompanying symptoms following a strep, bacterial or viral infection. The OCD can display as intense fear or anxiety, and accompanying symptoms may include tics, anxiety, depression, behavioral regression, deterioration in school performance, sensory sensitivities, severely restricted food intake and more; and
- WHEREAS,** researchers have begun to substantiate this syndrome involves a misdirected autoimmune process that affects or weakens the blood-brain barrier. The inflammatory process irritates a region of the brain that manages a variety of functions such as movement, cognitive perception, habit, executive "logic based" thinking, emotions and the endocrine system; and
- WHEREAS,** a conservative estimate of prevalence is 162,000 children in the United States alone. PANDAS/PANS is likely as common as pediatric cancer and pediatric diabetes, and can seriously affect the healthy outcome of a child's life; and
- WHEREAS,** PANDAS/PANS is often misdiagnosed and undertreated. Treatment varies by the needs of the child but may include antibiotics, steroids, intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG), plasmapheresis, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and anti-inflammatory medications; and
- WHEREAS,** PANDASnetwork.org is a 501c3 non-profit corporation dedicated to improving the diagnosis and treatment of children with PANDAS/PANS. PANDAS Network is also a conduit for researchers to navigate collaborations and the medical community to find information; and
- WHEREAS,** it is imperative to raise public awareness of this health issue at the local, state and national level.

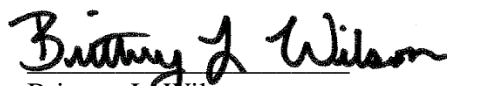
**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim October 9, 2021 as

**PANDAS/PANS AWARENESS DAY  
in Vermont.**



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 8th day of October, A.D. 2021.

  
Philip B. Scott  
Governor

  
Brittney L. Wilson  
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs