



MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, a diagnosis of PANDAS or PANS (Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections and PANS Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndromes) 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; and,

WHEREAS, the OCD can display as intense fear or anxiety with accompanying symptoms such as tics, anxiety, phobias, depression, behavioral regression, rage, deterioration in school performance, sensory sensitivities, severely restricted food intake, and more, and

WHEREAS, researchers have begun to substantiate that this syndrome involves a misdirected autoimmune process that affects or weakens the Blood Brain Barrier, where 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 in the U.S. 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, with treatment varying depending on the needs of the child, but may include antibiotics, steroids, IVIG (intravenous immunoglobulin), Plasmapheresis, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and anti-inflammatory medications; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this health issue, and more must be done to increase activity at the local, state, and national levels.

NOW, THEREFORE, DO I, Mayor Kelli Linville, proclaim October 9, 2017 as:

PANDAS/PANS AWARENESS DAY

in the City of Bellingham, Washington, and urge everyone to join me in this special observance.



Signed this 22nd day of August, 2017

Kelli Linville, Mayor
City of Bellingham