

House Health & Human Services

04/10/2024 01:30 PM

HB24-1382 Ins Coverage Pediatric Neuropsychiatric Syndrome

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Alyssa Oland For Colorado Psychological Association	Dear Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee, My name is Alyssa Oland and I am a licensed pediatric psychologist in Colorado and the President of the Colorado Psychological Association. Thank you for allowing me to testify today in support of HB 1382. I have worked with pediatric clients who have been diagnosed with PANDAS after a strep infection. PANDAS can affect mental health in profound ways, such as causing increased anxiety, depression, and symptoms similar to obsessive compulsive disorder. This can be very detrimental to a child's social, academic, emotional, and behavioral functioning. This can also be very disruptive for family members and parents, as the mental health symptoms can be acute and severe, and sometimes involve safety concerns such as risk of harm to self or others. It is important for children to be able to access care for PANDAS, without a lack of insurance coverage creating obstacles to care or undue financial burden. Insurance coverage for PANDAS would enable affected children to access care, reducing missed days of work by parents, and improving the quality of life of affected children and their parents. Please vote yes on this critical bill. Thank you.