

Abby DeVore

Representative Scott Lipps
Health Committee Chair
77 S. High St.
13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Representative Scott Lipps:

Thank you for allowing me to give my proponent testimony in support of HB 488.

I support HB 488, which will require insurance providers to cover PANDAS/PANS treatment for thousands of children across the state of Ohio who desperately need it. One such child is my niece Nevaeh. Nevaeh is 13 years old, wise beyond her years and quite the comedian in the family. Sadly much has changed in the past year. Nevaeh, who had been diagnosed with strep throat a week or so prior began having severe episodes or tics. Literally over night she went from a typical healthy child to a child with uncontrollable body movements, verbal tics and anxiety. My once social and outgoing niece retreated into seclusion. Nevaeh was clearly alarmed and anxious about what was happening to her as she couldn't even sit through a concert we had been looking forward to for months. Simple tasks such as brushing her hair became a chore as her uncontrollable tics made things difficult. After months of tests and appointments Nevaeh was diagnosed with PANDAS. These appointments, labs and the medications used to treat this life altering condition were not covered by insurance. My sister had to take out money on her home in order to pay for the bills but slowly we began to see my once carefree niece making progress. Sadly due to costs my niece has not been able to go to many follow up appointments to tweak her treatment and she still suffers immensely. No parent should have to decide between making a mortgage payment or scheduling a doctors appointment. Please consider passing HB 488 and help the families of those suffering from PANDAS/PANS. Thank you.

Abby DeVore.