

October 12, 2020

Chairman Lipps, Ranking Member Boyd, and Distinguished Members of the House Health Committee:

My name is Jade Spriggs, of 229 E Columbus St, West Liberty, OH 43357, I am a family friend to Heather and Nevaeh. Heather and I went to school together and have known each other for the majority of our lives. Heather is not only a nurse, a working single mother, but has always been very active for her children's health and mental well being. Her oldest child (Nevaeh) was born in the middle between my oldest two sons. She loved playing Minecraft with my oldest and outdoor sports with my second born.

Over the last two years, I have seen this beautiful young lady go from glowing, vibrant, self confident, outgoing both socially and physically (participating in sports) to extremely reserved, anxious to be in public, withdrawn and wilt. When Nevaeh first started developing signs of PANDAs Heather talked to me about her concerns. Heather had taken Nevaeh to see a doctor and they tried to explain her ticks away as a "suddenly developed nervous habit", or "anxiety", or maybe "depression", and even went so far as to insinuate that she was just pretending. (This is by far out of character for Nevaeh.) Nevaeh was showing signs of this disease and no one was really listening to her or her Mother. Heather was not only told that her daughter was faking her symptoms, but maybe Heather didn't know her daughter as well as she thinks she does. Insult to Injury.

Once Nevaeh was finally diagnosed with PANDA's, Heather's insurance would not cover any medical expenses. Heather had to search out alternative treatment methods, all of which were out of pocket expenses. Heather refinanced her home and took loans in order to cover these. Wouldn't you if it were your child? Sadly, Heather and Nevaeh are just one on many families in Ohio experiencing the same thing.

I have seen the emotional and financial strain this family has needlessly had to endure; I have watched a beautiful vibrant person dim to this disease. It is because of this that I urge you to pass HB 488, and give these hurting families the help that they need.

Thank you,
Jade Spriggs