
Rohnda McCloskey, MSN, RN, LSN

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Chairman P. Scott Lipps
House Health Committee
77 S. High St., 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Chairman Lipps, House Speaker Cupps, and Ranking members of the Ohio Health Committee,

I am a Registered Nurse and Licensed School Nurse in the state of Ohio. I work for a large urban school district in one of the big 8 school systems within our state.

I see many students with mental health concerns on a daily basis. Many of my students are diagnosed with Trauma, Mood Disorder, Tourette's Syndrome, ADHD, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, OCD, Anorexia, Anxiety, Parent Separation Anxiety, Encopresis, Bedwetting, and the list goes on and on.

As I have spent my 22 years as a pediatric nurse, I often wonder are these medications that we are putting in our children actually helping every single one of them? Are these medications even helping the majority of them? Are we setting our children up for failure as adults?

While I am not denying the existence of the list of mental health disorders listed above or some success of the current treatments, I do think as a healthcare professional that we owe it to our children to find the causes and correct treatments of these "illnesses." The list above, if you read it carefully, you will notice, can also be a list of symptoms for PANDAS or PANS Disorders.

We need insurers to cover the diagnosis, treatment, and therapies for PANDAS and PANS. Once this intervention occurs, our healthcare providers will then become more aware of these two illnesses and they will be reimbursed for the care that they provide to these children.

Imagine the money that will be saved by the state of Ohio on IEPs, Special Education services, extra instruction and public/private/charter school interventions to help children with mental health disorders if many of these

students actually had treatments that work. We know that when students have untreated chronic illness, this affects their state, national, and local test scores dramatically.

Imagine the money that will be saved in state medicaid dollars and commercial insurance payouts on psychiatric inpatient and outpatient services, ER visits, expensive medications that do not work, and visits to many many doctors and specialists in the hopes of finding the right answer by parents.

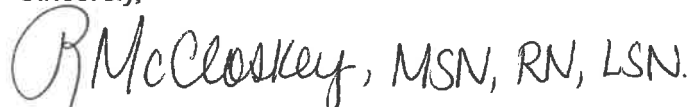
Imagine the quality of life that could help many children to succeed and grow up to become productive citizens in our great state of Ohio.

I see decline in many of Ohio's children everyday with little options of referrals at my fingertips. What we are currently doing is not working. We are in a vicious healthcare cycle that continues to repeat itself at the price of our children's lives.

A vote in favor of HB 488 is a vote in favor of our Ohio children.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and dedication to our children.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Rohnda McCloskey in black ink, including the name and credentials.

Rohnda McCloskey, MSN, RN, LSN