



DATE

Dear Members of the Senate *{or Governor of the State approving Awareness Day}*:

We sincerely ask the State of _____ to recognize October 9th as PANDAS/PANS Awareness Day. Please allow parents in your State a day to celebrate awareness of this rare, **treatable** disease.

Last year, 23 states and cities recognized October 9th on behalf of this newly recognized autoimmune illness that afflicts more than 162,000 in the U.S. alone (see attachment-2013 Awareness Day Summary). Our goal is to heighten public awareness of this potentially devastating pediatric illness, average age of onset being 4-12 years of age (see attachment-Statistics).

Last year, the States of Arizona and Wisconsin were able to establish, by Resolution, that October 9th be an Annual Awareness Day. Both the States of Connecticut and Massachusetts are taking further steps to establish Advisory Councils to advise legislature on this autoimmune disease. Lastly, these measures involve public awareness touching all children and their families, at no expense to the State, and it presents a clear bi-partisan message.

This October 9th PANDAS/PANS Awareness Day gives families hope and courage to raise monies for research and awareness for our school age children. **Early treatment within the first year of onset remits the majority of children.** Untreated, the child will often struggle with lifelong neurological and psychological problems. Untreated, children will incur financial costs potentially well into the hundreds of thousands – affecting social, medical, educational, family systems.

Lastly, my own child developed PANDAS in ____ at age ____.
Give **brief example of your own story**.....

Thank you for your kind consideration to allow us this day of recognition.

Sincerely,

Name _____