

Submitter: Steven Stryker  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB718

My name is Steve Stryker and I am an Oregonian with Parkinson's living in Salem. I have participated in Rock Steady Boxing for the last six years. I have had the opportunity to meet and share workouts with many others in our community suffering from Parkinson's disease. I have volunteered on the board of directors of Punching out Parkinsons, the Salem non-profit that runs the local affiliate of Rock Steady Boxing.

I am in support of S.B. 718 which would establish a Parkinson's disease registry in Oregon. Our group in Salem is growing and serves up to 30 individuals. A registry would let us know precisely how well we are serving the local Parkinson's community. In addition, it would assist us in planning to ensure we are properly equipped to best serve the Salem metro area.

I was diagnosed with Parkinson's eight years ago and as time passes the disease continues to get worse. A registry will provide the necessary data to assist researchers in their quest for a cure as well as give valuable insight into environmental causes for the disease. As the CDC has ranked Parkinsons as the second most common as well as the fastest growing neurological disease in the world it is imperative we do as much as humanly possible to end it. Thank you in advance for moving this forward.