

To: Oregon Senate Committee on Health Care

From: Daniel and Patricia Baker

What: Written Submission to Establish a Parkinson's Disease Registry in Oregon. S.B. 718

My name is Dan Baker and my wife is Pat Baker. I have lived with Parkinson's Disease for the past 22 years. It will be 23 in August. Actually I probably had symptoms for at least two years before being diagnosed by a movement disorder specialist. Pat and I have been very involved with OHSU Parkinson's Center of Oregon along with the Brian Grant Foundation and Parkinson's Resources of Oregon. We have also been involved as volunteers for the Parkinson's Foundation to help encourage people to participate in research. At OHSU we serve on the advisory committee and help facilitate newly diagnosed workshops.

A registry for Parkinson's in Oregon would help to encourage more people to participate in research and also increase connections and interactions with other Parkinson's patients and their care partners. We believe Parkinson's is a "designer disease", not everyone has the same symptoms. A registry would provide a forum of information on how to successfully live with our disease by sharing with others, including doctors and research advocates to help them design clinical trials based on science. An area that needs to be explored is exposure to pesticides and toxic chemicals. Personally, I was a farmer for a few years and was exposed to many chemicals and am not sure whether these toxic chemicals caused my Parkinson's Disease.

A registry will enable the Oregon's Health Care system collect pertinent data to share with others involved with finding a cure for PD. This health information will benefit all Oregonians and their families who have PD.

Please support SB 718 and create a Parkinson's Disease Registry in Oregon. It is something you can do that will not break the budget and help many many people.