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

As someone deeply impacted by Parkinson's disease, I wholeheartedly support the establishment of a Parkinson's registry in Oregon. My journey with Parkinson's began with my father's diagnosis in 2023 and continued with my husband's diagnosis in 2024. These experiences have underscored the urgent need for comprehensive data collection to better understand and combat this debilitating condition.

The registry would play a pivotal role in advancing research by enabling scientists to study patterns of Parkinson's disease over time. For instance, my father's military service and my husband's exposure to pesticides during farm work in his youth highlight potential environmental factors that may contribute to Parkinson's development. By documenting such exposures and demographic information, the registry can help uncover critical insights into the disease's origins and progression.

Understanding these links is crucial not only for enhancing treatment strategies but also for implementing preventive measures that could mitigate future cases. Establishing a Parkinson's registry in Oregon would not only support individuals and families affected by this disease but also contribute significantly to global efforts aimed at combating Parkinson's.

I urge policymakers to prioritize the establishment of this registry as a vital step towards improving the lives of those affected by Parkinson's and advancing our collective understanding of this complex neurological disorder.

Thank you