

March 20, 2025

Oregon House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
RE: HB 3421 – Coverage for Biomarker Testing (SUPPORT)

Hon. Rob Nosse
Chair, House Committee on
Behavioral Health and Health Care

Hon. Cyrus Javadi and Travis Nelson
Vice Chairs, House Committee on
Behavioral Health and Health Care

Dear Representatives Nosse, Javadi, and Nelson,

On behalf of the Brian Grant Foundation, representing approximately 14,000 Oregonians living with Parkinson's disease (PD), we are writing to express our strong support for HB 3421, which would require certain health insurance policies to provide coverage for biomarker testing for diagnosis, treatment, management, and ongoing monitoring of conditions such as PD.

In recent years, biomarkers have become available for Parkinson's disease and hold the potential to significantly improve diagnosis and care. Currently, up to 30% of Parkinson's cases are initially misdiagnosed, creating challenges for individuals experiencing symptoms and their families. Early and accurate diagnosis is crucial, as it allows for timely intervention, the potential to slow symptom progression, and better long-term planning. For people living with Parkinson's, a progressive disease with no cure, the time it takes to receive an accurate diagnosis is critical.

As biomarker development continues, these tools offer the promise of not only aiding in diagnosis but also monitoring disease progression and informing treatment strategies. Biomarkers are also critical to the development of new therapies for Parkinson's. The high rate of misdiagnoses poses barriers to research, as clinical trials may inadvertently include participants who do not actually have Parkinson's, impacting the validity of study results.

We respectfully request that the committee advances HB 3421 to ensure that Oregonians with Parkinson's disease and other conditions have access to this important advancement in care. Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,



Katrina Kahl, MPH
Executive Director

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