

Submitter: Marlene Kendrick  
On Behalf Of: Brian Grant Foundation  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3421

March 20, 2025

Oregon House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

RE: HB 3421 – Coverage for Biomarker Testing (SUPPORT)

Hon. Rob Nosse Hon. Cyrus Javadi and Travis Nelson

Chair, House Committee on Vice Chairs, House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care 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), I am writing to express my 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 myself living with Parkinson's, a progressive disease with no cure, the time it took to receive an accurate diagnosis was 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.

Clinical trials may inadvertently include participants who do not actually have Parkinson's because of those who were misdiagnosed, impacting the validity of study results. Biomarker testing will put those

of us in the correct  
clinical trial for a better outcome of that trial.

I 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,

Marlene Kendrick

Parkinson's Advocate with the Brian Grant Foundation

Ambassador to World Parkinson Congress