

Submitter: Jeneen Bell
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3421

Dear esteemed Chair,

I would like to share my personal experience with Parkinson's Disease and to strongly advocate for the coverage of biomarker tests for this and other conditions. My father was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease two years ago, and my husband was diagnosed one year ago. Elderly patients can be more accepting of the diagnosis based on visual cues in an office visit. However, my husband had challenges seeking an accurate diagnoses, he could have benefited greatly from the availability of biomarker tests.

With my husband, the delay in diagnosis was not only emotionally taxing, but it can also hinder early intervention and effective treatment, which is so critical in managing a disease like Parkinson's.

I have learned that 30% of Parkinson's Disease diagnoses incorrect, which makes the case for biomarker testing even more urgent. With the ability to take a biomarker test, we could have received a definitive diagnosis much sooner. It would have brought clarity, allowed us to begin the right treatment plan immediately, and provided us with the necessary tools to manage the disease with greater confidence.

I am asking you today to support this bill to make Parkinson's Disease and Cancer biomarker testing accessible and covered by insurance. It will not only expedite the diagnostic process for countless individuals, but it will also provide hope and relief to families who are currently enduring the uncertainty of a delayed or incorrect diagnosis. With the proper testing, we can take action sooner, and provide better outcomes for those living with Parkinson's Disease.

Thank you for your time and for considering this critical matter.