

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,

As a registered voter suffering from Parkinson's Disease I am writing in 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.

Biomarkers have recently become available for Parkinson's disease and can potentially improve diagnosis and ongoing care. Prior to biomarkers being available a Parkinson's diagnosis was purely based on clinical observation of symptoms and personal health history, with the only positive diagnosis being available at autopsy. This leads to delay in diagnosis and a high probability of misdiagnosis. This was the case in my diagnosis. I first began feeling symptoms 2013 and after multiple doctor visits, tests including an MRI I was diagnosed in April of 2016. This created a 3 year delay to receive treatment. During that time I suffered high anxiety and depression and my 23 year marriage dissolved. I truly believe that had biomarkers been available my diagnosis would have occurred much earlier and my life might have been different.

I am respectfully requesting the committee advance HB 3421 to ensure Oregonians with Parkinson's Disease and other conditions have access to these tools.

Regards,

Steven Stryker