

HB 1412 Public Health – Parkinson’s Disease Registry – Established
House Health and Government Operations Committee
SUPPORT
March 16, 2022

Thank you, Chair Pendergrass and members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee for this opportunity to support HB1412 Public Health – Parkinson’s Disease Registry – Established. I also thank Delegate Kerr for sponsoring this bill.

I am Larry Zarzecki, a retired law enforcement officer who was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease in 2009. I experienced a “freezing” episode which is a sudden paralysis, that caused me to fall and suffer a closed head injury and shattered spine. Through intensive rehabilitation I learned to take care of myself. I have used my challenges and experiences to inspire and support others with Parkinson’s, spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, multiple sclerosis, and other movement disorders.

I tell you this story because Parkinson’s disease is a neurodegenerative disease for which there is no cure, but which can be managed. A registry will be beneficial in estimating future health care costs and medications. On the average, according to medical statistics, people with Parkinson’s disease spend four days longer than usual during a hospital stay.

A Parkinson’s disease registry will also be helpful in estimating cases of different types of Dementia including but not limited to Alzheimer’s, multiple system atrophy (MSA), muscular, muscular/skeletal, brain and mental health issues.

Passage of this bill makes economic sense as it creates a helpful tool in projecting future health care costs regarding Parkinson’s treatments. Parkinson’s attacks the entire body and includes the lack of the body’s ability to produce dopamine. A registry for Maryland would help us better understand the depth and scope of the disease.

For these reasons, I ask you for a favorable report on HB1412. If you would like to follow up with me, I can be reached at larryzarzecki@yahoo.com or by calling me at 410-916-1638.