



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

February 28, 2023

The Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk  
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee  
Room 241, House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

### **RE: House Bill 703 - Public Health – Parkinson’s Disease Registry – Established - Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of information for House Bill 703 (HB 703) - Public Health – Parkinson’s Disease Registry – Established. HB 703 establishes a Parkinson’s Disease Registry within MDH and charges MDH, in consultation with the Parkinson’s Disease Registry Advisory Committee, to establish a system for collecting data for the registry and disseminating information about Parkinson’s disease and Parkinsonism in the state.

As written, MDH will be responsible for creating, implementing, and maintaining a Parkinson’s disease registry program, managing data requests, conducting data analysis, and consulting regularly with the Advisory Committee. It is MDH’s understanding that the bill sponsor and advocates plan to put forward amendments to the bill that would potentially shift some of the duties and responsibilities away from MDH. However, with these amendments, it is MDH’s belief that the responsibility to operate and fund the registry will still reside with MDH. We look forward to reviewing the amendments and are open to continued conversations.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Peters, Acting Director of Governmental Affairs at [megan.peters@maryland.gov](mailto:megan.peters@maryland.gov) or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.  
Secretary