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April 29, 2016

House Health & Aging Committee
Ohio House of Representatives

Re: HB 499

Dear Members of the Committee:

I write to you to encourage passage of HB 499, the Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorder Registry Act.

While thousands of Ohioans are affected by Parkinson's disease, Multiple Sclerosis or other neurological and movement disorder diseases, very little accurate information exists to assist those who research, treat, and provide care to those suffering from these diseases. Accurate incidence and prevalence information is critical and needed to gain a better understanding of these diseases.

This lack of information inhibits research, treatments, programs, and services. By passing HB 499, you will help improve and enhance the ability of researchers to do more precise research, learn how many of your fellow citizens live with these diseases which will help inform policymaking priorities, and you will enhance awareness of the scope and devastating impact of these conditions.

The information collected through this registry may provide a foundation for evaluating and understanding many factors such as geographic clusters of diagnoses, variances in the gender ratio, disease burden, and changes in health care practices. In addition, the registry could help uncover and inform promising areas of neurological disease research and support the discovery of disease therapies, treatments, and one day, a cure.

Several other states have enacted similar legislation, and I urge you, on behalf of people living with Parkinson's disease, to enact an Ohio registry.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Thompson".

Ted Thompson, JD
President & CEO