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April 4, 2024

Senator Julian Cyr
24 Beacon Street
Room 111
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Marjorie Decker
24 Beacon Street
Room 130
Boston, MA 02133

Re: Support for S.1344/H.2613, AN ACT to Improve Outcomes For Individuals with Parkinson's Disease

Dear Chairs Cyr and Decker:

The American Academy of Neurology (AAN), is the world's largest association of neurologists and neuroscience professionals, with over 40,000 members. The AAN's mission is to enhance member career fulfillment and promote brain health for all. A neurologist is a doctor with specialized training in diagnosing, treating, and managing disorders of the brain and nervous system such as Alzheimer's disease, stroke, concussion, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, headache and migraine.

The AAN is pleased to support **S.1344/H.3614**, which would establish a Parkinson's disease (PD) research registry in Massachusetts. This registry will help expand our understanding of PD and accelerate research for improved therapeutics and treatments.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, PD is the second-most common and the fastest-growing neurological disorder in the world. There are an estimated more than one million Americans currently living with PD, with about 90,000 more diagnosed each year. Nationally, the annual economic burden of PD is at least \$52 billion, a total that is estimated to grow to approximately \$80 billion by 2037.

This bill would allow for the collection of data on people diagnosed with PD in the state. Establishing a PD research registry will provide more accurate rates of incidence and prevalence within the state. In addition, the registry will help identify high-risk groups, support patient contact studies, and serve as a valuable data resource for the research community.

On behalf of the AAN, our 40,000 members, and their patients, we strongly support the passage of **S.1344/H.3614**. We urge you to support this important legislation and look forward to further action by the Legislature. Please don't hesitate to contact Grant Niver, AAN's State Affairs Program Manager, at gniver@aan.com with any questions.

Sincerely,

Carlayne E. Jackson, MD, FAAN
President, American Academy of Neurology