

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

House Bill No. 7233: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PARKINSON'S DISEASE RESEARCH ACCOUNT

March 28, 2025

Jeffrey R. Beckham, Secretary

Office of Policy and Management

Senator Osten, Representative Walker and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony opposing **House Bill 7233, An Act Establishing A Parkinson's Disease Research Account**.

This bill establishes a separate, non-lapsing, or off-budget, account for Parkinson's disease research. The Department of Public Health is required to expend funds deposited into the account to support research into treatment for Parkinson's disease, and the department is authorized to receive private donations to the account. Lastly, the bill appropriates \$500,000 from the General Fund in FY 2026 for deposit into the account.

The Office of Policy and Management appreciates greatly the impact that Parkinson's disease has on the residents of our state. However, we oppose the establishment of an off-budget account to support the activities in this bill. The primary concern with this approach is that funding in such accounts does not count toward compliance with the state's constitutional and statutory spending cap, which limits the annual growth in state spending to the greater of the growth in personal income or increase in inflation. As we know, the spending cap is intended to ensure that government spending grows in line with the income of our residents who support that spending. The bill circumvents this foundational component of our fiscal guardrails, which have been the key to our state's fiscal turnaround. We have dramatically improved our fiscal outlook by spending only the revenue we can reasonably expect to receive.

Therefore, we oppose this measure that does not conform with the sound budgeting practices that have benefited our state.

Additionally, we are concerned that spending in off-budget accounts is not subject to the annual appropriations process that provides rigor, prioritization, and public transparency to our state spending.

Lastly, this bill would result in siloed investments underwritten here in the state that are potentially disconnected from other research efforts underway in other states and institutions. We believe that a regional or national approach that leverages the expertise and resources available on a broader scale would be more likely to have a significant impact on the development of treatments for Parkinson's disease.

I respectfully request that the committee oppose this bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

