LATE MATERIAL

Item #: Public Comment Meeting Date: 4/6/23

From: Anne Pott
To: Public Comment

Subject: Public Comment Request of 4/6/23 @ 8:30 a.m. meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 2:14:22 PM

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Hello.

My name is Anne Pott. I am a Carson City resident and volunteer board member of the Parkinson Support Center of Northern Nevada.

I am writing to ask permission to share at your upcoming 4/6/23 meeting the following about Parkinson's disease:

April is Parkinson's Awareness month, we are holding a proclamation event in Reno on April 19th at Reno's Little Theater with several key political representatives. We'd love for you to consider joining us. Several key points I'd like to share about living with Parkinson's in Northern Nevada are:

- The Parkinson's community is severely under-recognized and under-served. Most people with the disease are not diagnosed for many years and then they still have troubles finding a neurologist with expertise in the field. Although new research suggests that someone is diagnosed every 6 minutes with PD, there are no good numbers of how many people are living with the disease! Parkinson's disease does not shorten your lifespan; it just presents more challenges for that life. Although officially there are 10,000 people with PD in Nevada, we estimate there are at least 3 times that who have not been properly diagnosed and definitely not properly treated. There is a severe shortage of neurologist with proper subspecialty training.
- Without good epidemiologic records, it is very hard to properly allocate resources for research, public health and medical care. As we know, Nevada is one of the fastest growing states in the nation and particularly in the older population. Parkinson's disease can affect people in their 20's to 90's. It affects men and women. At least 10% of people with PD have symptoms before the age of 50. Parkinson's affects our veteran population even more, due to toxic exposures and head injuries. And it affects our rural and Hispanic/Latinx community due to pesticide and other chemical exposures.
- When someone has symptoms and they are not properly diagnosed, they feel scared, frustrated and all alone. Parkinson's is a disease which often is very visible with tremor, slow movement, depressed facial features. It makes it hard to go out and socialize and often hard to work. Social isolation leads to other illnesses.

I wish to attend in person and I understand that time limit of three minutes. Would this be okay?

Volunteer Parkinson Support Center of Northern Nevada Board Member

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