**SP-1: Driving a Car under the California laws for people diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease.**

**Author Name: Senior Senator Whisnand**

**Co-Author Name: Senior Assembly Member Bloch**

Parkinson’s Disease is a chronic and progressive disorder of the nervous system that can result in a decline in both motor skills and cognition. It can imparr the ability to safely operate motor vehicles and can thus be a higher risk of being involved in accidents while driving.

Driving Laws for People with Parkinson’s Disease in California can be quite confusing. It is a very important issue for Parkinson’s Patients. Doctors who diagnose the Disease must immediately report it to the Local Health Department, the State Health Department and to the Department of Motor Vehicles. All play a role in testing different areas to determine who can drive safely and who can’t.

        Currently many of the Doctors aren’t following the State Law and upon diagnosing Parkinson Patients who have the Disease aren’t sending the information to the local and Statewide Health Departments and thus Parkinson Patients are driving and can have accidents due to the Disease. Other Parkinson Patients don’t know whether or not they should be driving.

 This proposal would clarify and require proper actions in order to follow the law. Supporting the law will provide safety for those who drive with Parkinson’s Disease and those who don’t have Parkinson’s Disease.

The issues that need to be addressed to follow the State Law includes:

This proposal requires that Doctors who diagnose people with Parkinson’s Disease within a few days contact the local Health Department and the State Health Department to test the person to see if it is safe for them to Drive. The Health Departments must then contact the State Department of Motor Vehicles, who must test the drivers and determine if they can drive safely.

Currently many Doctors do not provide this information and consequently many people with Parkinson’s Disease without these tests don’t know if they can drive or can’t drive. This can put themselves, their families and the general Public in danger.