

SB 27 receives approval by Senate, qualifies for House consideration



PHOTO COURTESY OF PARKINSON'S IN MOTION
Jane Rice Williams of Parkinson's in Motion stands with Sen. Brandon Storm.

By Madison Nantz
Staff Writer
A bill aiming to create a statewide Parkinson's Disease Research Registry is making its way through the Kentucky legislature,

with advocates hopeful it will soon become a law. Senate Bill 27 — sponsored by Sen. Brandon Storm (R-London) and backed by local nonprofit Parkinson's in Motion,

among others — was approved by the Senate last Friday. Now, the bill heads to the House for consideration. SB 27 would establish a confidential registry un-

der the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, gathering data to improve research and treatment efforts across the state. The registry would track causes of Parkinson's, one of the fastest-growing neurological diseases in the country, which impacts movements, cognition, and mood. If enacted, Kentucky would join a small group of states with similar registries. States which already have a Parkinson's Disease Registry program include California and Nebraska.

Parkinson's in Motion has played a key role in advocating for the bill and raising awareness about the importance of data collection in rural areas such as London. "I think that it's desperately needed," commented Jane Williams, founder of Parkinson's in Motion. "I've always been concerned about how under-diagnosed Parkinson's is and about how little we know." "Our remote areas — not only do we not have what we need, but it's difficult to get what we need," Williams contin-

ued. Furthermore, the registry would establish an advisory committee to guide its development and ensure meaningful use of the data collected. As the bill moves to the House, supporters are encouraging Kentuckians to voice their support and emphasize the need for improved data to drive better outcomes for those living with Parkinson's. Other organizations ad-

vocating for the bill include The Michael J. Fox Foundation, the University of Kentucky, and the University of Louisville. "I am thrilled," Williams said of SB 27's progression. "It looks like we're going to get it through." In the time leading up to its decision, more testimonies will be given in front of the House. Williams anticipates a response by the end of March.

SUITS

Continued from page 1A

therapists, their lawyers, their supporters, and we're going to see the truth," Bryant warned. Doug Phelps is another brother of Jimmy and John Phelps. Bryant has since commented, "I meant that we would line the streets if litigation continued, as in when the case is heard by the court."

While Thursday's press conference was originally going to be held at London City Hall, it was ultimately relocated to The Calico at Creekside Gardens. The Sentinel-Echo was not formally invited to the conference; however, the newspaper was permitted to cover the event — Bryant stating he assumed it would. The defamation suits in question come following Mayor Weddle's appearance on an episode of the podcast True CrimeCast titled "Deep Corruption — London, KY (Interview with Mayor Randall Weddle) Part II." The episode was shared as a Feb. 12 YouTube video.

The Phelps' complaint claims that Weddle accused members of the Phelps family of murder, sex-trafficking, pedophilia, money laundering, and drug dealing. It states that he accused brother Doug of committing the majority of these crimes, whereas the plaintiffs were "referenced as complicit to the aforementioned, but to a lesser degree." Jarvis is similarly suing the mayor for comments made on the podcast, as well as the City of London. Bryant identified the "sole purpose" of the press conference as responding to Brandon Voelker — attorney of the Phelps brothers and Jarvis — about "his

allegations of defamation" concerning the Phelps and Jarvis. "We would not be standing here had Mr. Voelker not taken to social media to try to taint the jury down here in Laurel County and try to portray my client as a tyrant and as somebody who silences his critics," said Bryant. Bryant went on to say, "We are here with the truth and if they proceed on after today, they will be doing so to their detriment." A major focus of Bryant and Weddle's conference was advocating for victims of sexual abuse. The pair said Doug Phelps, a former educator, has had sexual relations with minors, claiming that Jarvis helped facilitate the abuse by bringing "at least two female underage students" to Phelps' residence. Voelker stated that Jarvis, who had only been 16 at the time, strictly served as a witness. Although Phelps was convicted in 2013 for possession of child pornography and tampering with a witness, he was subsequent-

ly pardoned by former Governor Matt Bevin in 2019. "They don't want a guy like me here — to the point they'd be willing to kill me," said Mayor Weddle, noting that he has been "trying to fight a corrupt system." When a reporter inquired about why Weddle felt as though the Phelps would go as far as to end his life to silence him, his response was, "Just a lot of rumors." Following the event, Bryant and Weddle provided reporters with packets containing documents they find relevant to the situation. The Sentinel-Echo did not receive a packet at that time, but was later sent the documents via email. The documents include accounts of the alleged incidents, which pertain to at least three girls who had been underage at the time. Doug Phelps commented Thursday evening, stating, "The amount of misinformation and lies coming from Weddle and Bryant is incredible. I am being portrayed in ways that do not match the truth."

"Old documents from 12- and 13-year-old case files [are] being used illegally — not just because of dismissed cases or a pardoned case, but because the Administrative Office of the Courts ordered the documents Weddle and Bryant are distributing to be destroyed by Expungement Orders. Weddle and Bryant should be held to the same laws everyone else has to follow," he continued. Jimmy Phelps agreed to comment on the matter at a later time but had not by press time.

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT:



Located on corner of Hwy 192 / 363 near Lowe's in the Ford Brothers' building.

Call (606) 878-7111 for more details.

WE RUN TOGETHER.



© 2022 Trane. All Rights Reserved.

LEO JONES & SON, INC.
HOMETOWN SERVICE SINCE 1945
606-864-6105
www.leojones.com
LIC. NO. hmo4630

EVERY TRANE AIR CONDITIONER, FURNACE AND HEAT PUMP IS ENGINEERED, BUILT AND TESTED TO RUN, RUN AND RUN—JUST LIKE YOU.



TRANE
It's Hard To Stop A Trane.

TRANE
TECHNOLOGIES

AVOID DANGERS AFTER A STORM

STAY SAFE AROUND POWER LINES

- If you see a downed power line, move away from it and anything touching it. Keep a distance of 50 feet, as the ground around the downed power lines may be energized. Assume ALL downed power lines are live.
- If you see someone in direct or indirect contact with a downed line, DO NOT touch him/her. You could become energized as well. Call 911 for assistance.
- Don't step in water near downed lines.
- NEVER attempt to move a downed power line or anything else in contact with it using an object such as a broom or stick.
- NEVER drive over a downed power line.
- If your vehicle comes in contact with a downed power line while you're in the vehicle, stay inside the car. Call 911 or honk your horn to get help, but tell those rendering aid to stay away from the vehicle.
- If you must exit the vehicle for life-threatening reasons - jump out and away from it, making sure to land with your feet together and touching. Then, shuffle away with your feet touching until you reach a safe distance. NEVER attempt to get back into a vehicle that is in contact with a power line.



JACKSON ENERGY
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

jacksonenergy.com 1-800-262-7480