

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 804 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY FABRIZIO, FARINA, MACKENZIE, BENNINGHOFF, DUSH, SONNEY, FREEMAN, YOUNGBLOOD, KIRKLAND, VEREB, DONATUCCI, SCHLOSSBERG, R. BROWN, BAKER, READSHAW, McNEILL, PASHINSKI, BOBACK, DRISCOLL, TOOHIL, MATZIE, CALTAGIRONE, KILLION, GOODMAN, MILLARD, GIBBONS, THOMAS, LONGIETTI, BIZZARRO, O'NEILL, ROSS, PICKETT, MAJOR, HEFFLEY, MARSICO, HARHART, NEILSON, SCHLEGEL CULVER, V. BROWN, ROZZI, MURT, WARD, WHEELAND, SCHREIBER, DiGIROLAMO, A. HARRIS, O'BRIEN, WATSON, PHILLIPS-HILL, EVERETT, OBERLANDER, MILNE, PAYNE, GINGRICH, MAHONEY, HENNESSEY, BURNS, HARKINS, B. MILLER, DEAN, D. COSTA, KINSEY, KAVULICH, KORTZ, KIM, CUTLER, MOUL, GODSHALL, DeLUCA AND SAINATO, APRIL 11, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 11, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of April 2016 as "Parkinson's Disease
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease impacts 1 million people in the
4 United States and is expected to rise commensurately with
5 increasing life expectancy with projections estimated to double
6 the prevalence by 2030; and

7 WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is the second most common
8 progressive neurodegenerative condition in the United States;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Although research suggests the cause of Parkinson's
11 disease is a combination of genetic and environmental factors,
12 the exact cause of the progression of the disease is still

1 unknown; and

2 WHEREAS, Symptoms of Parkinson's disease vary from person to
3 person and may include tremors, rigidity, difficulty with
4 balance, swallowing and speaking, cognitive problems, dementia,
5 mood disorders, such as depression and anxiety, and sleep
6 disruptions, all of which can significantly affect the patient's
7 daily activities and motor function; and

8 WHEREAS, Life expectancy is reduced for all onset ages, with
9 disease progression leading to severe disability and possible
10 confinement to a wheelchair or bed; and

11 WHEREAS, Although treatments are initially effective in
12 treating symptoms, 50% to 90% of patients develop motor
13 complications, such as "wearing-off," early-morning akinesia,
14 delayed response, suboptimal response or no response, freezing
15 episodes and dyskinesia; and

16 WHEREAS, There is no cure, therapy or drug to halt the
17 progression of Parkinson's disease; and

18 WHEREAS, The National Parkinson Foundation, the Parkinson's
19 Action Network and the Parkinson's Disease Foundation are
20 nonprofit organizations; and

21 WHEREAS, The National Parkinson Foundation, the Parkinson's
22 Action Network and the Parkinson's Disease Foundation have
23 joined together to promote Parkinson's disease awareness and
24 support programs to improve education, knowledge, research and
25 treatment of the condition; and

26 WHEREAS, The National Parkinson Foundation, the Parkinson's
27 Action Network and the Parkinson's Disease Foundation are urging
28 patients and their supporters, health care providers and the
29 general public to share the facts about Parkinson's disease and
30 their ever-growing awareness about the etiology of this disorder

1 and potential treatment; and

2 WHEREAS, The community's focus on Parkinson's disease and its
3 impact on patients' lives will help give hope for a better
4 future for people with Parkinson's disease; and

5 WHEREAS, Increased awareness and expanded knowledge of the
6 realities of life with Parkinson's disease are needed to help
7 find more effective treatments or a cure for Parkinson's
8 disease; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
10 month of April 2016 as "Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month" in
11 Pennsylvania and urge all of our residents to support the search
12 for a cure and assist those individuals and families who deal
13 with this disabling disease on a daily basis.