
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 233 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY FABRIZIO, BAKER, TOOHIL, DiGIROLAMO, DeLUCA,
HENNESSEY, WATSON, MATZIE, R. BROWN, DUSH, DAVIS, SONNEY,
FREEMAN, WARD, LONGIETTI, READSHAW, SCHWEYER, BOBACK,
SCHLOSSBERG, BULLOCK, MARSICO, MILLARD, ROEBUCK, BIZZARRO,
GOODMAN, DEASY, V. BROWN, McNEILL, KIRKLAND, STURLA,
FITZGERALD, ROZZI, HILL-EVANS, EVERETT, MURT, BURNS, KORTZ,
SAINATO, PHILLIPS-HILL, NEILSON, PYLE, HEFFLEY, PASHINSKI AND
SAYLOR, APRIL 12, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 12, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of April 2017 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 that the cause of
11 Parkinson's disease is a combination of genetic and
12 environmental factors, the exact cause of the progression of the
13 disease is unknown; and

14 WHEREAS, Symptoms of Parkinson's disease vary from person to

1 person and may include tremors, rigidity, difficulty with
2 balance, swallowing and speaking, cognitive problems, dementia,
3 mood disorders, such as depression and anxiety, and sleep
4 disruptions, all of which can significantly affect the person's
5 daily activities and motor functions; and

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

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

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

16 WHEREAS, The National Parkinson Foundation, the Parkinson's
17 Action Network and the Parkinson's Disease Foundation are
18 nonprofit organizations which have joined together to promote
19 Parkinson's disease awareness and support programs to improve
20 education, knowledge, research and treatment of the condition;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, The National Parkinson Foundation, the Parkinson's
23 Action Network and the Parkinson's Disease Foundation are urging
24 patients and their supporters, health care providers and the
25 general public to share the facts about Parkinson's disease and
26 their ever-growing awareness about the etiology of this disorder
27 and potential treatment; and

28 WHEREAS, The community's focus on Parkinson's disease and its
29 impact on patients' lives offers hope for a better future for
30 people with Parkinson's disease; and

1 WHEREAS, Increased awareness and expanded knowledge of the
2 realities of life with Parkinson's disease are needed to find
3 more effective treatments or a cure for Parkinson's disease;
4 therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
6 month of April 2017 as "Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month" in
7 Pennsylvania and urge all residents to support the search for a
8 cure and assist those individuals and families who deal with
9 this debilitating disease on a daily basis.