
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 99 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY BOSCOLA, FONTANA, FARNESE, BLAKE, BROWNE,
BREWSTER, DINNIMAN, TARTAGLIONE, YUDICHAK, AUMENT, GREENLEAF,
MCGARRIGLE, RAFFERTY AND KILLION, APRIL 26, 2017

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, APRIL 26, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2017 as "Parkinson's Disease
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is believed to affect more than
4 1 million people in the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, Approximately 5% to 10% of persons with Parkinson's
6 disease are under 50 years of age; and

7 WHEREAS, The cause of Parkinson's disease remains unclear,
8 but scientists believe that environmental factors trigger the
9 disease in people with a genetic susceptibility; and

10 WHEREAS, Symptoms of Parkinson's disease vary from person to
11 person and include tremor, slowness, difficulty with balance,
12 swallowing, chewing and speaking, rigidity, cognitive problems,
13 dementia, mood disorders such as depression and anxiety,
14 constipation, skin problems and sleep disruptions; and

15 WHEREAS, Medications mask some symptoms of Parkinson's
16 disease for a limited amount of time each day, often with dose-
17 limiting side effects; and

1 WHEREAS, The medications and treatments lose their
2 effectiveness, generally after four to eight years, leaving a
3 person unable to move, speak or swallow; and

4 WHEREAS, Caring for Parkinson's disease patients is a task
5 that becomes increasingly complex and demanding as the severity
6 of the disease progresses, until caring for the patient becomes
7 the caregiver's main or almost only activity, resulting in
8 significant caregiver burden; and

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

11 WHEREAS, Increased awareness and expanded knowledge of the
12 realities of life with Parkinson's disease will allow the
13 community at large to better support people who struggle with
14 the challenges of this debilitating condition; and

15 WHEREAS, Increased education and research are needed to help
16 find more effective treatments with fewer side effects and,
17 ultimately, an effective treatment or cure for Parkinson's
18 disease; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of April 2017
20 as "Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.