
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 215 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY GAYDOS, BENNINGHOFF, BIZZARRO, BROWN, BURNS,
CALTAGIRONE, SCHLEGEL CULVER, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, EVERETT,
FRANKEL, GREINER, HENNESSEY, HILL-EVANS, KINSEY, KORTZ,
LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MEHAFFIE, MILLARD, MURT, OBERLANDER,
OWLETT, PASHINSKI, PICKETT, PYLE, READSHAW, RYAN, SONNEY,
STAATS, WARREN AND DeLUCA, APRIL 9, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 9, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of April 2019 as "Parkinson's Disease
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is the second most common
4 progressive neurodegenerative disorder after Alzheimer's
5 disease; and

6 WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is estimated to affect
7 approximately 1 million people in the United States, and the
8 prevalence will rise to 1.2 million by 2030; and

9 WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is the 14th leading cause of
10 death in the United States according to the Centers for Disease
11 Control and Prevention; and

12 WHEREAS, Life expectancy is reduced for all onset ages, with
13 disease progression leading to severe disability and possible
14 confinement to a wheelchair or bed prior to death; and

15 WHEREAS, The symptoms of Parkinson's disease vary from person

1 to person and can include asymmetric tremors, slowness of
2 movement and rigidity, difficulty with balance, swallowing,
3 chewing and speaking, cognitive impairment and dementia, mood
4 disorders and a variety of other nonmotor symptoms; and

5 WHEREAS, It is estimated that the economic burden of
6 Parkinson's disease is at least \$25 billion annually to patients
7 and family members which includes direct and indirect costs,
8 treatment, social security payments and lost income; and

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

13 WHEREAS, There is no objective test or biomarker for
14 Parkinson's disease, and there is no cure or drug to slow or
15 halt the progression of the disease; and

16 WHEREAS, The National Parkinson's Foundation and The Michael
17 J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research along with many
18 volunteers, researchers, caregivers and medical professionals
19 are working to improve the quality of life of individuals living
20 with Parkinson's disease and their families and to further
21 promote Parkinson's disease awareness, education, knowledge,
22 treatment and research; and

23 WHEREAS, Further efforts in research, testing and education
24 are crucial in order to advance toward improved early detection
25 methods, the discovery of more effective treatments to stop the
26 progression of Parkinson's disease and, ultimately, to find a
27 cure for this devastating disease; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
29 month of April 2019 as "Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month" in
30 Pennsylvania; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all
2 residents to support the search for a cure and assist those
3 individuals and families who deal with this debilitating
4 disease.