

1 State of Arkansas  
2 88th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2011

SR 10

4  
5 By: Senator Bookout  
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7 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

8 TO SUPPORT AND PROMOTE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH TO FIND  
9 BETTER TREATMENTS AND EVENTUALLY A CURE TO  
10 PARKINSON'S DISEASE; TO COMMEND THE DEDICATION OF  
11 LOCAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS  
12 WORKING TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF PERSONS  
13 LIVING WITH PARKINSON'S DISEASE AND THEIR FAMILIES;  
14 AND TO DESIGNATE APRIL AS PARKINSON'S DISEASE  
15 AWARENESS MONTH.  
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18 **Subtitle**

19 TO DESIGNATE APRIL AS PARKINSON'S DISEASE  
20 AWARENESS MONTH.  
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23 WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is the second most common  
24 neurodegenerative disease in the United States, second only to Alzheimer's  
25 disease; and  
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27 WHEREAS, even though there is inadequate comprehensive data on the  
28 incidence and prevalence of Parkinson's disease, as of 2010, it is estimated  
29 that the disease affects over one million people in the United States; and  
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31 WHEREAS, although research suggests that the cause of Parkinson's  
32 disease is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, the exact  
33 cause and progression of the disease is still unknown; and  
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35 WHEREAS, there is no objective test for Parkinson's disease and the  
36 rate of misdiagnosis can be high; and



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2           WHEREAS, symptoms of Parkinson's disease vary from person to person and  
3 include tremors; slowness; difficulty balancing, swallowing, chewing, and  
4 speaking; rigidity; cognitive problems; dementia; mood disorders such as  
5 depression and anxiety; constipation; skin problems; and sleep disruptions;  
6 and

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8           WHEREAS, medications mask some symptoms of Parkinson's disease for a  
9 limited amount of time each day, often with dose-limiting side effects; and

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11           WHEREAS, ultimately the medications and treatments lose their  
12 effectiveness, generally after four to eight years, leaving affected persons  
13 unable to move, speak, or swallow; and

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

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18           WHEREAS, increased education and research are needed to help find more  
19 effective treatments with fewer side effects and, ultimately, an effective  
20 treatment or cure for Parkinson's disease; and

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22           WHEREAS, the federal government, through the National Institutes of  
23 Health, the Department of Defense Neurotoxin Exposure Treatment Parkinson's  
24 Research Program, the Veterans Affairs Parkinson's Disease Research,  
25 Education, and Clinical Centers, and other agencies, support vital work to  
26 better understand Parkinson's disease and to find new treatments; and

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28           WHEREAS, the United States Senate has designated April as Parkinson's  
29 Awareness Month and has encouraged all Parkinson's advocates across the  
30 country to work with their state and local governments to proclaim April as  
31 Parkinson's Awareness Month,

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33           NOW THEREFORE,

34           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
35 THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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1            THAT the Senate:

2                    (1) Hereby designates the month of April as Parkinson's  
3 Awareness Month;

4                    (2) Supports the goals and ideals of Parkinson's Awareness  
5 Month;

6                    (3) Continues to support research to find better treatments, and  
7 eventually, a cure for Parkinson's disease;

8                    (4) Recognizes the people living with Parkinson's disease who  
9 participate in vital clinical trials to advance our knowledge of this  
10 disease; and

11                   (5) Commends the dedication of local and regional organizations,  
12 volunteers, and millions of Americans across the country working to improve  
13 the quality of life of persons living with Parkinson's disease and their  
14 families.

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