
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 742 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY FABRIZIO, COHEN, BIZZARRO, FREEMAN, KIRKLAND,
HARKINS, JAMES, HENNESSEY, STERN, MATZIE, MIRABITO, EMRICK,
READSHAW, CALTAGIRONE, MCNEILL, DIGIROLAMO, BOBACK, O'NEILL,
O'BRIEN, BISHOP, MICOZZIE, SCHLOSSBERG, SONNEY, YOUNGBLOOD,
KOTIK, LONGIETTI, GIBBONS, PICKETT, D. COSTA, V. BROWN,
KORTZ, MILLARD, PASHINSKI, DAVIS, LUCAS, OBERLANDER,
SABATINA, ROCK, GRELL, ROSS, MAJOR, BAKER, HARHART, DeLUCA,
THOMAS, FRANKEL, BARRAR, NEUMAN, EVERETT, R. BROWN, SCAVELLO,
GINGRICH, MCCARTER, SWANGER, WATSON, VEREB, BROWNLEE,
MARSICO, FLECK, DONATUCCI AND MILNE, MARCH 31, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 31, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing April 2014 as "Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month"
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease impacts one million people in
4 the United States and is expected to rise parallel 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
13 unknown; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 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 2014 as "Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month" in
11 Pennsylvania and urge all of our citizens 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.