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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 335 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY BOSCOLA, COSTA, KASUNIC, ERICKSON, KITCHEN,  
WASHINGTON, BREWSTER, TEPLITZ, GREENLEAF, DINNIMAN, STACK,  
FONTANA, RAFFERTY, FERLO, WHITE AND SMITH, APRIL 1, 2014

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, APRIL 1, 2014

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2014 as "Parkinson's Disease  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

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

5 WHEREAS, Approximately 40% of persons with Parkinson's  
6 disease are under 60 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, Ultimately the medications and treatments lose their  
2 effectiveness, generally after four to eight years, leaving the  
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 2014  
20 as "Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.