

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING APRIL OF 2022, TO BE "PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Newberry, Serpa, Filippi, Fenton-Fung, Kennedy, Shallcross Smith, Fellela, Tanzi, McGaw, and Bennett

Date Introduced: March 31, 2022

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is a chronic, progressive neurological disease and is the  
2 second most common neurodegenerative disease in the United States, second only to Alzheimer's  
3 disease; and

4 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Parkinson's is  
5 the 14th leading cause of death in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, More than one million people in the United States are currently living with  
7 Parkinson's disease, with an additional 50,000 to 60,000 cases being diagnosed each year, and  
8 with more than 3,100 residing in Rhode Island; and

9 WHEREAS, Although research suggests Parkinson's results from a combination of  
10 genetic and environmental factors, the exact cause and progression of the disease is still unknown  
11 and there is no objective test or biomarker with which to diagnose the disease; and

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

16 WHEREAS, Currently there is no known cure or drug to slow or halt the progression of  
17 Parkinson's disease, and available treatments are limited in their ability to address the medical  
18 needs of patients; and

19 WHEREAS, Increased efforts and awareness are desperately needed to help expedite

1 research efforts for better treatments, and ultimately a cure, as well as creating enhanced  
2 programs and services to help those impacted by Parkinson's disease to improve their quality of  
3 life until a cure is found; now, therefore be it

4           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
5 proclaims April of 2022, to be "Parkinson's Awareness Month" in the State of Rhode Island; and  
6 be it further

7           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
8 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the American Parkinson Disease Association,  
9 Rhode Island Chapter.

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