

111<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. RES. 474

Supporting the designation of April as Parkinson's Awareness Month.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 26 (legislative day, MARCH 25), 2010

Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNES, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

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## RESOLUTION

Supporting the designation of April as Parkinson's  
Awareness Month.

Whereas Parkinson's disease is the second most common neurodegenerative disease in the United States, second only to Alzheimer's disease;

Whereas even though there is inadequate comprehensive data on the incidence and prevalence of Parkinson's disease, as of 2010, it is estimated that the disease affects over 1,000,000 people in the United States;

Whereas although research suggests the cause of Parkinson's disease is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, the exact cause and progression of the disease is still unknown;

Whereas there is no objective test for Parkinson's disease and the rate of misdiagnosis can be high;

Whereas symptoms of Parkinson's disease vary from person to person and include tremor, slowness, difficulty with balance, swallowing, chewing, and speaking, rigidity, cognitive problems, dementia, mood disorders, such as depression and anxiety, constipation, skin problems, and sleep disruptions;

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

Whereas ultimately the medications and treatments lose their effectiveness, generally after 4 to 8 years, leaving the person unable to move, speak, or swallow;

Whereas there is no cure, therapy, or drug to slow or halt the progression of Parkinson's disease;

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

Whereas the Federal Government, through the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense Neurotoxin Exposure Treatment Parkinson's Research Program, the Veterans Affairs Parkinson's Disease Research, Education and Clinical Centers, and other agencies, supports vital work to better understand Parkinson's disease and to find new treatments; and

Whereas the Parkinson's community will gather in Central Park on April 24, 2010, for the Parkinson's Unity Walk, an annual gathering inspiring people with Parkinson's, their friends, and their families: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2               (1) supports the designation of April as Parkin-  
3       son's Awareness Month;

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

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

9               (4) recognizes the people living with Parkin-  
10       son's who participate in vital clinical trials to ad-  
11       vance our knowledge of this disease; and

12               (5) commends the dedication of local and re-  
13       gional organizations, volunteers, and millions of  
14       Americans across the country working to improve  
15       the quality of life of persons living with Parkinson's  
16       disease and their families.

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