

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 642

Expressing support for designation of the month of April as Parkinson's Awareness Month.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 27, 2012

Mr. PEARCE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for designation of the month 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 there is inadequate comprehensive data on the incidence and prevalence of Parkinson's disease, as of 2011, it is estimated that the disease affects from 500,000 to 1,500,000 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 tremors, slowness, difficulty with balance, swallowing, chewing, 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; and

Whereas the month of April would be an appropriate month to designate as Parkinson's Awareness Month: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) supports the designation of Parkinson's
3 Awareness Month;

4 (2) continues to support research to find better
5 treatments, and eventually, a cure for Parkinson's
6 disease;

1 (3) recognizes the people living with Parkin-
2 son's who participate in vital clinical trials to ad-
3 vance knowledge of the disease; and

4 (4) commends the dedication of local and re-
5 gional organizations, volunteers, and millions of peo-
6 ple in the United States working to improve the
7 quality of life of persons living with Parkinson's dis-
8 ease and their families.

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