

House Resolution 1859

By: Representatives Wilkinson of the 52nd, Watson of the 166th, Willard of the 51st, Geisinger of the 48th, Dollar of the 45th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing April, 2014, as Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month at the state capitol; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease impacts 1 million people in the United States and is
4 expected to rise in parallel with increasing life expectancy, with projections estimating
5 double the prevalence by 2030; and

6 WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is a progressive neurodegenerative condition most
7 commonly characterized by motor symptoms such as tremor and rigidity; patients also suffer
8 from nonmotor symptoms, such as sleep disturbances and depression, all of which can
9 significantly affect the patient's daily activities and motor functions; and

10 WHEREAS, life expectancy is reduced for all onset ages, with disease progression leading
11 to severe disability and possible confinement to a wheelchair or bed; and

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

15 WHEREAS, caring for Parkinson's disease patients is a task that becomes increasingly
16 complex and demanding as the severity of the disease progresses, until caring for the patient
17 becomes the caregiver's main or almost only activity, resulting in significant caregiver
18 burden; and

19 WHEREAS, increased awareness and expanded knowledge of the realities of life with
20 Parkinson's disease will allow the community at large to better support people who struggle
21 with the challenges of this debilitating condition; and

22 WHEREAS, the National Parkinson Foundation, the Parkinson's Action Network, and the
23 Parkinson's Disease Foundation are nonprofit organizations; and

24 WHEREAS, the National Parkinson Foundation, the Parkinson's Action Network, and the
25 Parkinson's Disease Foundation have joined together to promote Parkinson's disease
26 awareness and support, including improved education, knowledge, research, and treatment;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, the National Parkinson Foundation, the Parkinson's Action Network, and the
29 Parkinson's Disease Foundation are encouraging patients and their supporters, health care
30 providers, and the general public to demonstrate their caring by sharing the road patients
31 walk, the facts about Parkinson's disease, and the ever-growing awareness about the etiology
32 of this disorder and potential treatments; and

33 WHEREAS, the community's focus on Parkinson's disease and its impact on patients' lives
34 will help give hope for a better future for people with Parkinson's disease.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
36 the members of this body recognize April, 2014, as Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month
37 at the state capitol and encourage all citizens to support the search for a cure and assist those
38 individuals and families who deal with this disabling disease on a daily basis.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
40 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the public and the press.