

## Senate Resolution 714

By: Senators Beach of the 21st, Mullis of the 53rd, Millar of the 40th, Miller of the 49th, Gooch of the 51st and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing April, 2016, as Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease impacts 1 million people in the United States and is  
3 expected to rise in parallel with increasing life expectancy, with projections estimating  
4 double the prevalence by 2030; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is a progressive neurodegenerative condition most  
6 commonly characterized by motor symptoms, such as tremor and rigidity; patients also suffer  
7 from nonmotor symptoms, such as sleep disturbances and depression, all of which can  
8 significantly affect the patient's daily activities and motor function; and
- 9 WHEREAS, life expectancy is reduced for all onset ages, with disease progression leading  
10 to severe disability and possible confinement to wheelchair or bed; and
- 11 WHEREAS, although treatments are initially effective in treating symptoms, 50 to 90 percent  
12 of patients develop motor complications, such as "wearing off," early-morning akinesia,  
13 delayed response, suboptimal response or no response, freezing episodes, and dyskinesias;  
14 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 that have joined together to  
24 promote Parkinson's disease awareness and support, including improved education,  
25 knowledge, research, and treatment; and

26 WHEREAS, the National Parkinson Foundation, the Parkinson's Action Network, and the  
27 Parkinson's Disease Foundation are urging patients and their supporters, health care  
28 providers, and the general public to demonstrate their care by sharing the road patients walk,  
29 the facts about Parkinson's disease, and the etiology of this disorder and potential treatment  
30 options; and

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

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
34 recognize April, 2016, as Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month and encourage all citizens  
35 to support the search for a cure and assist those individuals and families who deal with this  
36 disabling disease on a daily basis.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
38 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the  
39 press.