

House Resolution 1099

By: Representatives Wilkinson of the 52nd, Cooper of the 43rd, Price of the 48th, Gardner of the 57th, Beskin of the 54th, 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
34 the members of this body recognize April, 2016, as Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month
35 and encourage all citizens to support the search for a cure and assist those individuals and
36 families who deal with this disabling disease on a daily basis.

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