

1 State of Arkansas
2 88th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2011

HR 1011

4
5 By: Representative Moore

6
7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

8 TO SUPPORT AND PROMOTE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH TO FIND
9 BETTER TREATMENTS AND EVENTUALLY A CURE TO
10 PARKINSON'S DISEASE; TO COMMEND THE DEDICATION OF
11 LOCAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS
12 WORKING TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF PERSONS
13 LIVING WITH PARKINSON'S DISEASE AND THEIR FAMILIES;
14 AND TO DESIGNATE APRIL AS PARKINSON'S DISEASE
15 AWARENESS MONTH.

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18 **Subtitle**

19 TO DESIGNATE APRIL AS PARKINSON'S DISEASE
20 AWARENESS MONTH.

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23 WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is the second most common
24 neurodegenerative disease in the United States, second only to Alzheimer's
25 disease; and

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27 WHEREAS, even though there is inadequate comprehensive data on the
28 incidence and prevalence of Parkinson's disease, as of 2010, it is estimated
29 that the disease affects over one million people in the United States; and

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31 WHEREAS, although research suggests that the cause of Parkinson's
32 disease is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, the exact
33 cause and progression of the disease is still unknown; and

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35 WHEREAS, there is no objective test for Parkinson's disease and the
36 rate of misdiagnosis can be high; and



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2 WHEREAS, symptoms of Parkinson's disease vary from person to person and
3 include tremors; slowness; difficulty balancing, swallowing, chewing, and
4 speaking; rigidity; cognitive problems; dementia; mood disorders such as
5 depression and anxiety; constipation; skin problems; and sleep disruptions;
6 and

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

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11 WHEREAS, ultimately the medications and treatments lose their
12 effectiveness, generally after four to eight years, leaving affected persons
13 unable to move, speak, or swallow; and

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15 WHEREAS, there is no cure, therapy, or drug to slow or halt the
16 progression of Parkinson's disease; and

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

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22 WHEREAS, the federal government, through the National Institutes of
23 Health, the Department of Defense Neurotoxin Exposure Treatment Parkinson's
24 Research Program, the Veterans Affairs Parkinson's Disease Research,
25 Education, and Clinical Centers, and other agencies, support vital work to
26 better understand Parkinson's disease and to find new treatments; and

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28 WHEREAS, the United States Senate has designated April as Parkinson's
29 Awareness Month and has encouraged all Parkinson's advocates across the
30 country to work with their state and local governments to proclaim April as
31 Parkinson's Awareness Month,

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33 NOW THEREFORE,

34 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH
35 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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1 THAT the House of Representatives:

2 (1) Hereby designates the month of April as Parkinson's
3 Awareness Month;

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

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

8 (4) Recognizes the people living with Parkinson's disease who
9 participate in vital clinical trials to advance our knowledge of this
10 disease; and

11 (5) Commends the dedication of local and regional organizations,
12 volunteers, and millions of Americans across the country working to improve
13 the quality of life of persons living with Parkinson's disease and their
14 families.

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