

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 549

WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is a chronic and progressive neurological disorder and the second most common neurodegenerative disease in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is estimated to affect between 500,000 and 1.5 million people in the United States, and by 2040, its prevalence is projected to more than double; and

WHEREAS, The symptoms of Parkinson's disease worsen over time and may include tremors, slowness of movement, rigidity, trouble with balance, cognitive impairment, mood disorders, and difficulties with speaking, swallowing, chewing, and other actions; and

WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Parkinson's disease is the 14th leading cause of death in the United States; it is estimated that the economic burden of Parkinson's is at least \$14.4 billion annually, including indirect costs to patients and family members of approximately \$6.3 billion; and

WHEREAS, Research suggests that genetic and environmental factors may contribute to the development of Parkinson's disease, but the exact cause and progression of the disease remains unknown; there is no standard diagnostic test or known biological marker for Parkinson's, and at this time, there is no cure or drug to slow or halt its progression; and

WHEREAS, A number of treatments, therapies, and lifestyle changes can help ease Parkinson's symptoms, and volunteers, researchers, caregivers, and medical professionals alike can all

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play a crucial role in improving the quality of life for patients and their families at all stages of the disorder; and

WHEREAS, More research, education, and community support services are needed if we are to develop better treatments and ensure access to quality care for all Parkinson's sufferers, and public awareness is an important ally in these efforts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 85th Legislature, hereby recognize April 2017 as Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month and encourage all Texans to learn more about this devastating condition.

Hall

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 12, 2017.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate