

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6055

A RESOLUTION designating the month of April as Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is the second most common neurodegenerative disease in the United States, after Alzheimer's disease; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that the disease affects over 1,000,000 people in the United States, including thousands of Kansans; and

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

WHEREAS, There is no objective test for Parkinson's disease, and the potential for misdiagnosis can be high; and

WHEREAS, Symptoms of Parkinson's disease vary from person to person and include: Tremors; slow movement; rigidity; difficulty with balance, swallowing, chewing and speaking; cognitive problems; dementia; mood disorders, such as depression and anxiety; bladder and bowel issues; skin problems; diminished sense of smell; and sleep disruptions; and

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

WHEREAS, Ultimately the medications and treatments lose their effectiveness, generally after four to eight years, leaving the person unable to move, speak or swallow; and

WHEREAS, There is, as yet, no absolute cure, therapy or drug to successfully slow or halt the progression of Parkinson's disease; and

WHEREAS, Increased education and research are needed to help find more effective treatments and a cure for Parkinson's disease; and

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

WHEREAS, In the fight against Parkinson's, Kansans can be proud. The University of Kansas Medical Center's Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorder Center is a designated National Parkinson Foundation Center of Excellence; and

WHEREAS, Many individuals and entities have worked to promote Parkinson's Disease awareness, education and patient support, including support groups and organizations such as the Parkinson's Program at Meadowlark Hills and the National Parkinson Foundation of the Heartland; as well as patients, notably, Rob Peppers, Representative Pete DeGraaf, Representative Ramon Gonzalez Jr., former Representative J. Basil Dannebohm and Lisa Reser; and advocates Michelle Haub, Shana Gatschet, Dr. Rajesh Pahwa and others: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas: That we designate the month of April as Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month. We will continue to support research to find better treatments, and eventually, an absolute cure for Parkinson's disease.

House Resolution No. 6055 was sponsored by Representatives Peter Degraaf, J.R. Claeys, Ramon Gonzalez and Troy Waymaster.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.