

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6022

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, second only to 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 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 rate of misdiagnosis can be high; and

WHEREAS, Symptoms of Parkinson's disease vary from person to person and include tremor, slowness, difficulty with balance, swallowing, chewing and speaking, rigidity, cognitive problems, dementia, mood disorders, such as depression and anxiety, constipation, skin problems 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 no cure, therapy, or drug to slow or halt the progression of Parkinson's disease; and

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

WHEREAS, The federal government, through the National Institute of Health, the Department of Defense Neurotoxin Exposure Treatment Parkinson's Research Program, the Veterans Affairs Parkinson's Disease Research, Education and Clinical Center, and other agencies, support 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 Center is designated as a National Parkinson's Foundation Center of Excellence. Support groups and organizations such as the National Parkinson's Foundation — Heartland in Leawood; patients, including Rob Peppers, the Honorable J. Basil Dannebohm, Lisa Reser and Barbara Sowards; and many advocates working to promote Parkinson's Disease awareness, education and patient support: 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, a cure for Parkinson's disease.

House Resolution No. 6022 was sponsored by Representatives Fred Patton and Gail Finney.

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.