

2026 -- H 8447

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING APRIL OF 2026, TO BE "PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Newberry, Serpa, Chippendale, Hopkins, Kennedy,  
Edwards, Fogarty, Fellela, Ajello, and Solomon

Date Introduced: April 14, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Parkinson's Disease is a chronic, progressive neurological disease and is the  
2 second most common neurodegenerative disease in the United States, second only to Alzheimer's  
3 disease; and

4 WHEREAS, More than one million people in the United States are currently living with  
5 Parkinson's Disease. Every six minutes, there is a new Parkinson's Disease diagnosis, and each  
6 year there are nearly 90,000 new diagnoses of Parkinson's Disease which represents a 50 percent  
7 increase from previous years. In Rhode Island, one to two thousand people suffer from  
8 Parkinson's Disease; and

9 WHEREAS, Approximately five to ten percent of Parkinson's Disease diagnoses occur  
10 before the age of 50, with the onset of Parkinson's Disease commonly occurring at the age of 60  
11 and older; and

12 WHEREAS, Although research suggests Parkinson's results from a combination of  
13 genetic and environmental factors, the exact cause and progression of the disease is still unknown  
14 and there is no objective test or biomarker with which to diagnose the disease; and

15 WHEREAS, Symptoms of Parkinson's Disease vary from person to person and can  
16 include tremors, slowness, difficulty with balance, swallowing, chewing, speaking, rigidity,  
17 constipation, skin problems, cognitive problems, dementia, and mood disorders such as  
18 depression and anxiety; and

19 WHEREAS, Currently there is no known cure or drug to slow or halt the progression of

1 Parkinson's Disease, and available treatments are limited in their ability to address the medical  
2 needs of patients; and

3 WHEREAS, Increased efforts and awareness are desperately needed to help expedite  
4 research efforts for better treatments, and ultimately a cure, as well as creating enhanced  
5 programs and services to help those impacted by Parkinson's Disease to improve their quality of  
6 life until a cure is found; now, therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
8 proclaims April of 2026, to be "Parkinson's Awareness Month" in the State of Rhode Island; and  
9 be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
11 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the American Parkinson Disease Association,  
12 Rhode Island Chapter.

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