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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

DESIGNATING APRIL OF 2021, AS "PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senator Jessica de la Cruz

Date Introduced: March 30, 2021

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Every April, global communities around the world recognize and support
2 Parkinson's Awareness Month in order to raise awareness for this devastating disease. The theme
3 of this year's event is "Start a Conversation, a call to action that urges people to talk about
4 Parkinson's with their loved ones, friends, neighbors, care team and community"; and

5 WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is a chronic, progressive neurological disease and is the
6 second most common neurodegenerative disease in the United States, second only to Alzheimer's
7 disease. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it is the 14th leading cause
8 of death in the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, Nationally, Parkinson's disease is estimated to affect between 500,000 and
10 1,000,000 people with 50,000 to 60,000 new cases diagnosed each year. That number is expected
11 to more than double by 2040, making support for the Parkinson's disease community even more
12 important; and

13 WHEREAS, Although research suggests Parkinson's disease results from a combination
14 of genetic and environmental factors, the exact cause and progression of the disease are still
15 unknown and as of January 2021, there is no objective test or biomarker with which to diagnose
16 the disease; and

17 WHEREAS, Symptoms of Parkinson's disease vary from person to person and include
18 tremor, slowness, difficulty with balance, swallowing, chewing, and speaking, rigidity, cognitive
19 problems, dementia, mood disorders, such as depression and anxiety, constipation, skin problems,

1 and sleep disruptions; and

2 WHEREAS, Millions of individuals in the United States are greatly impacted by
3 Parkinson's disease, including the caregivers, family members, and friends of individuals living
4 with the disease; and

5 WHEREAS, Currently, there is no known cure or drug to slow or halt the progression of
6 Parkinson's disease, and available treatments are limited in their ability to address the medical
7 needs of patients; and

8 WHEREAS, Increased education and research are needed to help find more effective
9 treatments with fewer side effects and to ultimately find an effective treatment or cure for
10 Parkinson's disease; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby proclaims April, 2021,
12 to be "Parkinson's Awareness Month"; and be it further

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

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