

Rep. Segal offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 54.

A resolution to declare April 2011 as Parkinson's Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Parkinson's disease can impact the lives of men and women of all ages, races, and ethnicities; and

Whereas, Parkinson's disease can affect one in every 100 people over the age of 60, but can also be diagnosed in people as young as 18; and

Whereas, As many as one million people in the United States and more than five million people in the world have Parkinson's disease; and

Whereas, There is no diagnostic test or biomarker for the disease; and

Whereas, The direct cause of Parkinson's disease is unknown, but research has shown that environment and genetics are factors; and

Whereas, Parkinson's disease is a degenerative neurological disorder resulting from cell loss in various parts of the brain, especially the substantia nigra, which produces dopamine, the chemical that carries signals for the body's coordination of movement; and

Whereas, The loss of dopamine causes patients to lose control of their movements as the body's neurons fire without any form of common control; and

Whereas, Since Parkinson's disease was identified nearly 200 years ago, no known cure for the disease has been found and the only treatments available help control a patient's symptoms; and

Whereas, The goal of Parkinson's Awareness Month is to educate the public on the realities those suffering from the disease face so that they may join in helping to provide greater access to the latest information for the Parkinson's community and help fund and promote scientific research in hopes of finding a cure; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare April 2011 as Parkinson's Awareness Month in the state of Michigan; and be it further

Resolved, That the members of the House of Representatives support the goals and ideals of Parkinson's Awareness Month; and be it further

Resolved, That the House of Representatives encourages media organizations and the citizens of Michigan to participate in Parkinson's Awareness Month and help educate their communities about Parkinson's disease; and be it further

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes and reaffirms the commitment of the National Parkinson Foundation to fight Parkinson's disease by providing education and awareness to the public about the disease's causes and symptoms and by promoting scientific research for further treatments and a possible cure.