

Rep. Brown offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 241.

A resolution to declare April 2012 as Parkinson's Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Parkinson's disease is the second most common neurodegenerative disease in the United States, second only to Alzheimer's disease; and

Whereas, There is inadequate comprehensive data on the incidence and prevalence of Parkinson's disease. As of 2011, it is estimated that the disease affects from 500,000 to 1,500,000 people in the United States; 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 tremors, slowness, poor balance, trouble swallowing or chewing, cognitive problems, dementia, mood disorders, sleep disruptions and more; and

Whereas, Medications can help ease the symptoms for a limited amount of time each day, but typically lose their effectiveness after 4 to 8 years, leaving the person unable to move, speak, or swallow; and

Whereas, There is no cure, therapy, or drug to slow or stop the progression of Parkinson's disease; and

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

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare April 2012 as Parkinson's Awareness Month in the state of Michigan. We support the search for a cure.