

HR 9089

2014

## House Resolution

A resolution designating April 2014 as "Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month" in the State of Florida.

WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is a progressive neurodegenerative condition most commonly characterized by motor symptoms, such as tremor and rigidity, and is accompanied by nonmotor symptoms, such as sleep disturbances and depression, all of which can significantly affect and impede a person's daily activities, and

WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease currently impacts an estimated 1 million people in the United States, and 50,000 to 60,000 new cases are diagnosed in the United States each year, and

WHEREAS, regardless of the age of onset, Parkinson's disease is linked to reduced life expectancy, severe disability, and possible confinement to a wheelchair or bed, and

WHEREAS, although medications are initially effective, many patients experience "wearing off" and develop increasing complications, such as early-morning akinesia, delayed or suboptimal motor response, no motor response, or freezing episodes, and

WHEREAS, as the severity of disease progresses, the task of caring for a Parkinson's disease patient becomes increasingly complex and demanding, often becoming the caregiver's main or almost only activity, and

HR 9089

2014

26 WHEREAS, because increased awareness and expanded knowledge  
27 of the realities of life with Parkinson's disease will allow the  
28 community at large to better support people who live with this  
29 debilitating condition, the National Parkinson Foundation, the  
30 Parkinson's Action Network, the Parkinson's Disease Foundation,  
31 The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, and The  
32 Parkinson Alliance Unity Walk have joined together to promote  
33 Parkinson's disease awareness and support, including improved  
34 education, knowledge, research, and treatment, and

35 WHEREAS, these nonprofit organizations are urging patients  
36 and their supporters, health care providers, and the public to  
37 demonstrate their caring by sharing experiences and facts  
38 relating to Parkinson's disease, to increase awareness of the  
39 etiology of this disorder and its potential treatments, and to  
40 acknowledge its impact on patients' lives in the hope of a  
41 better future for people with Parkinson's disease, NOW,  
42 THEREFORE,

43  
44 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
45 Florida:

46  
47 That April 2014 is designated as "Parkinson's Disease  
48 Awareness Month" in the State of Florida, and all citizens are  
49 urged to support the search for a cure and assist those

HR 9089

2014

50 | individuals and families who struggle daily with this disabling  
51 | disease.