



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Parkinson's disease (PD) is second only to Alzheimer's disease in the number of Americans it affects; and
- WHEREAS: Parkinson's disease is a progressive, neurodegenerative disease for which there is currently no cure; and
- WHEREAS: Every case of PD is unique, making it difficult to diagnose. Hallmark motor symptoms can include tremors, muscle rigidity; bradykinesia (slowness of movement), and poor balance. Cognitive symptoms include depression, anxiety, loss of executive function, and dementia; and
- WHEREAS: The exact number of people living with PD is unknown, but is estimated to be between 1-1.5 million Americans nationwide, and 20-30,000 Minnesotans. This figure does not include the untold number of caregivers, family members, and friends helping their loved ones deal with the disease; and
- WHEREAS: Minnesota is blessed with four movement disorder clinics: Capistrant Center for Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders at the Bethesda Hospital, the Mayo Clinic; Struthers Parkinson's Center, and the Movement Disorders Center at the University of Minnesota - Minneapolis. Many states do not have any such clinics, and many people from outside of Minnesota seek treatment here; and
- WHEREAS: The University of Minnesota is internationally renowned for its pioneering research in a number of areas that are likely to benefit Parkinson's disease; and
- WHEREAS: The National Parkinson Foundation - Minnesota has been working collaboratively with other PD groups to create Parkinson's-friendly communities statewide.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim April, 2012 to be:

PARKINSON'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 21st day of March.


GOVERNOR


SECRETARY OF STATE