

1 AN ACT concerning health.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Parkinson's Disease Public Awareness and Education Act.

6 Section 5. Findings. The General Assembly finds the
7 following:

8 (1) Parkinson's disease is a debilitating, painful,
9 and incurable neurological disorder of unknown origin that
10 disrupts and can end the lives of those who suffer from it.

11 (2) Parkinson's disease causes diverse symptoms,
12 including rigidity, slowness of movement, poor balance,
13 and tremors, which lead to an impaired ability to walk,
14 speak, swallow, and even breathe, so that the end result
15 can be a clear mind trapped inside a body that has lost its
16 ability to function.

17 (3) The visible symptoms of Parkinson's disease are
18 often mistaken to be a normal part of the aging process.

19 (4) In addition, many people with the disease encounter
20 precarious legal and personal situations in which they are
21 erroneously thought to be under the influence of illegal or
22 prescription drugs or alcohol due to their movement and
23 gait patterns.

1 (5) Parkinson's disease takes an enormous emotional,
2 psychological, and physical toll on caregivers and
3 families, potentially overwhelming their lives.

4 (6) It has been estimated that 1,500,000 Americans have
5 been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, 50,000 more are
6 diagnosed nationally each year, and another 1,500,000
7 persons have the disease but have never seen a neurologist.

8 (7) Parkinson's disease costs Americans
9 \$25,000,000,000 per year, including medical treatments,
10 disability payments, and lost productivity.

11 (8) Medications can only control some of the symptoms
12 of the disease and only for uncertain periods of time.

13 (9) The federal Morris K. Udall Parkinson's Disease
14 Research Act of 1997 provides federal funding through the
15 National Institutes of Health for Parkinson's disease, and
16 April 11 has been proclaimed to be World Parkinson's Day in
17 order to recognize the need for more research and help in
18 dealing with the devastating effects of this disease.

19 (10) Increased public awareness and education are
20 needed among health care, social services, judicial, law
21 enforcement, and emergency medical services personnel in
22 order to better respond to the needs of Parkinson's disease
23 patients and their caregivers and families.

24 (11) It is imperative for Illinois to commit itself to
25 actively support such public awareness and education
26 efforts throughout the State in order to better meet the

1 needs of its citizens who are suffering from Parkinson's
2 disease.

3 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

4 "Department" means the Department of Public Health.

5 "Director" means the Director of Public Health.

6 "Program" means the Parkinson's Disease Public Awareness
7 and Education Program established under this Act.

8 Section 15. Parkinson's Disease Public Awareness and
9 Education Program.

10 (a) Subject to appropriation, the Director shall establish
11 a Parkinson's Disease Public Awareness and Education Program.

12 (b) The purpose of the Program is to promote public
13 awareness of Parkinson's disease and the value of early
14 detection and possible treatments, including the benefits and
15 risks of those treatments. The Department may accept for that
16 purpose any special grant of moneys, services, or property from
17 the federal government or any of its agencies, or from any
18 foundation, organization, or medical school.

19 (c) The Program shall include the following:

20 (1) Development of a public education and outreach
21 campaign to promote Parkinson's disease awareness and
22 education, including, but not limited to, the following
23 subjects:

24 (A) the cause and nature of the disease;

1 (B) diagnostic procedures and appropriate
2 indications for their use;

3 (C) lifestyle issues relating to how a person copes
4 with Parkinson's disease, including, but not limited
5 to, nutrition, diet, and physical exercise;

6 (D) environmental safety and injury prevention;
7 and

8 (E) availability of Parkinson's disease diagnostic
9 and treatment services in the community.

10 (2) Development of educational materials to be made
11 available to consumers through local physicians,
12 hospitals, clinics, and boards of health.

13 (3) Development of professional education programs for
14 health care providers to assist them in understanding
15 research findings and the subjects set forth in paragraph
16 (1) of this subsection.

17 (4) Development of educational programs for other
18 personnel, including judicial staff, police officers, fire
19 fighters, and social services and emergency medical
20 service providers, to assist them in recognizing the
21 symptoms of Parkinson's disease and understanding how to
22 respond to the needs of persons with the disease in the
23 course of performing their duties, including dissemination
24 of the informational booklet prepared under Section 20 of
25 this Act.

26 (5) Development and maintenance of a list of current

1 providers of specialized services for the diagnosis and
2 treatment of Parkinson's disease. Dissemination of the
3 list shall be accompanied by a description of diagnostic
4 procedures, appropriate indications for their use, and a
5 cautionary statement about the current status of
6 Parkinson's disease research and treatment. The statement
7 shall also indicate that the Department does not endorse
8 specific Parkinson's disease programs or centers in this
9 State.

10 Section 20. Informational booklet.

11 (a) The Department, in consultation with the Midwest
12 Chapter of the American Parkinson Disease Association, any
13 public or private university medical school that the Director
14 deems useful, including, but not limited to, Loyola Medical
15 School, and the Department on Aging, shall prepare an
16 informational booklet in English, Spanish, and Mandarin that
17 provides, in a manner easily understandable by a patient or
18 other non-health care professional, information about the
19 symptoms and treatment of Parkinson's disease. The booklet may
20 contain any other information that the Department deems
21 necessary and may be revised by the Department whenever new
22 information about Parkinson's disease becomes available.

23 (b) The Department shall make a supply of the booklets
24 available to all licensed health care facilities engaged in the
25 diagnosis or treatment of Parkinson's disease and to those

1 personnel described in paragraph (4) of subsection (c) of
2 Section 15 of this Act, as well as to health care
3 professionals, community health centers, and members of the
4 public upon their request. The Department shall publicize and
5 make available the booklet to the maximum extent possible, and
6 shall make available electronically on its website in English
7 and Spanish the information contained in the booklet.

8 Section 25. Rules. The Director shall adopt rules to
9 effectuate the purposes of this Act.