

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.