WHEREAS, Parkinson’s disease (PD) is a chronic, progressive neurological disease, the second most common neurodegenerative disease in the United States; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 930,000 people will live with PD by 2020 and that number is expected rise to 1.2 million by 2030; and

WHEREAS, there are millions of caregivers, family members, and friends who are greatly affected by Parkinson’s disease; and

WHEREAS, the combined direct and indirect cost of PD in the US including treatment, disability, and similar costs, plus lost income due to inability to work is estimated at $25 billion per year; and

WHEREAS, PD medications alone cost an average of $2,500 per year and therapeutic surgery can cost up to $100,000 per person; and

WHEREAS, research suggests the cause of PD is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, but the exact cause in most individuals is still unknown; and

WHEREAS, there is no known cure or drug to slow or halt the progression of the disease and available treatments are limited in their ability to both address patients’ medical needs and remain effective over time; and

WHEREAS, the symptoms of PD vary from person to person and can include tremors, slowness of movement and rigidity, gait and balance difficulty, speech and swallowing disturbances, cognitive impairment and dementia mood disorders, and a variety of other non-motor symptoms; and

WHEREAS, volunteers, researchers, caregivers and medical professionals are working to improve the quality of life for those living with PD and their families; and

WHEREAS, increased research, education and community support services are needed to find more effective treatments and to provide access to quality care to those living with PD today;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the state of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim April 2019 as

PARKINSON’S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state of Wisconsin, recommend this observance to all of our citizens.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 29th day of March, 2019.

TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State