

By: Representative Currie

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 61

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AND DECLARING THE MONTH  
2 OF MAY 2020 AS "HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE STATE  
3 OF MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, Huntington's Disease is a fatal genetic disorder  
5 that causes the progressive breakdown of nerve cells in the brain,  
6 leading to the deterioration of an individual's physical and  
7 mental abilities; and

8 WHEREAS, symptoms of Huntington's Disease are likened to the  
9 simultaneous traits of ALS, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, made  
10 manifest in a triad of motor, cognitive and psychiatric symptoms,  
11 which include personality changes, mood swings, depression,  
12 forgetfulness, impaired judgment, unsteady gait, involuntary  
13 movements, slurred speech, swallowing difficulties and significant  
14 weight loss; and

15 WHEREAS, symptoms usually first appear in individuals between  
16 30 and 50 years of age and worsen over a 10-year to 25-year  
17 period; and



18           WHEREAS, the Huntington's Disease Society of America  
19 estimates that there are approximately 41,000 symptomatic  
20 Americans and more than 200,000 are at risk of inheriting the  
21 faulty gene that causes the Disease; and

22           WHEREAS, Huntington's Disease is known as the quintessential  
23 family Disease because every child of a parent with Huntington's  
24 Disease has a 50% chance of carrying the faulty gene and  
25 developing the disease; and

26           WHEREAS, Huntington's Disease slowly diminishes the affected  
27 individual's ability to walk, think, talk and reason, eventually  
28 rendering the individual totally dependent upon others for his or  
29 her care; and

30           WHEREAS, Huntington's Disease profoundly affects the lives of  
31 entire families emotionally, socially and economically, and while  
32 medications can alleviate some of the symptoms, no treatment is  
33 available to alter the course of Huntington's Disease; and

34           WHEREAS, lack of knowledge about Huntington's Disease may  
35 keep friends and neighbors from offering social and emotional  
36 support to the family, fostering unnecessary isolation; and

37           WHEREAS, in 1993 researchers identified the gene that causes  
38 Huntington's Disease and have continued to develop treatments in  
39 the hope of ultimately finding a cure; and

40           WHEREAS, the Huntington's Disease Society of America is  
41 dedicated to improving the lives of all individuals affected by  
42 Huntington's Disease and has created a network of support through



43 education, advocacy and outreach by committing more than \$25  
44 Million to fund research in hopes of finding effective treatments  
45 to slow the progression of Huntington's Disease since 1999; and

46 WHEREAS, there is still a need for greater public awareness  
47 of Huntington's Disease and more activity at the national, state  
48 and local levels to support affected individuals as well as their  
49 families and caregivers; and

50 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize  
51 official months that are set aside to increase awareness of  
52 serious illnesses that affect the lives of citizens of  
53 Mississippi:

54 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
55 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
56 THEREIN, That we do hereby, being attendant to such concern and in  
57 full accord with longstanding traditions, declare and designate  
58 the month of May 2020, as Huntington's Disease Awareness Month in  
59 the State of Mississippi, in conjunction with the observance of  
60 National Huntington's Disease Awareness Month, and encourage the  
61 citizens of the state to exercise heightened awareness during its  
62 observation.

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of the resolution be  
64 furnished to the Huntington's Disease Society of America and to  
65 the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

