



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Huntington's disease (HD) is a progressive, degenerative, neurological and incurable disease that causes total physical and mental deterioration over a 10 to 25-year period; and

WHEREAS, common symptoms of HD include uncontrollable muscle movements, loss of coordination and personality changes; as HD progresses, symptoms such as speech impairment, memory loss and involuntary muscle movements (chorea) become more severe; and

WHEREAS, juvenile HD is less common, an early onset form of HD that begins in childhood or adolescence (Juvenile HD) is defined by the onset of symptoms before age 20 years and accounts for 5% to 10% of all HD cases; and

WHEREAS, in the US, about 30,000 people have HD and another 200,000 are at risk for developing the condition, with symptoms in adults commonly developing between the ages of 30 and 50; and

WHEREAS, in the State of New Jersey, there are approximately 900 to 1,200 residents with HD, and about 7,000 at-risk individuals, some of whom seek services including clinical examinations, genetic testing, prenatal diagnosis and genetic counseling; and

WHEREAS, since the discovery of the gene that causes HD in 1993, the pace of HD research has accelerated; and

WHEREAS, since 1978, the State-funded Samuel L. Baily Huntington's Disease Centers at Rutgers University and Rowan University has provided neurologic and psychiatric diagnostic services, medical genetic testing, counseling, neuropsychological and case management services that support families affected by HD; and

WHEREAS, the Samuel L. Bailey Huntington's Disease Centers are credentialed research sites by the prestigious Huntington Study Group and they participate in several national and international research projects focused on finding a cure for, and better understanding of the impact of HD on those affected with this condition; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey has two long-term care facilities with specialty care programs for patients with HD: Leisure Chateau Care and Rehabilitation Center in Lakewood and JFK Hartwyck Rehabilitation Center at Cedar Brook in Plainfield; and

WHEREAS, the NJ Chapter of the Huntington's Disease Society of America, and the NJ Cure HD, in collaboration with the Hereditary Disease Foundation and the International Huntington Study Group organizations are celebrating Huntington's Disease Awareness Month to educate the public and support families affected by this devastating disease;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

MAY 2021

AS

HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

in New Jersey.



Philip D. Murphy

Lt. GOVERNOR

Philip D. Murphy

GOVERNOR

GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this sixth day of May in the year two thousand twenty-one, the two hundred forty-fifth year of the Independence of the United States