

[First Reprint]

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 29**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
218th LEGISLATURE**

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH PENNACCHIO

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Assemblywoman NANCY J. PINKIN

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

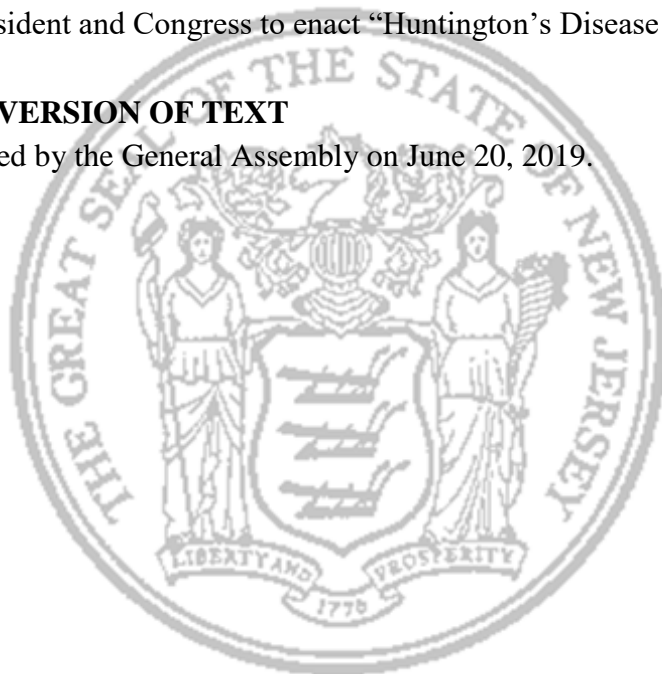
Senator Gopal

SYNOPSIS

Urges President and Congress to enact “Huntington’s Disease Parity Act.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the General Assembly on June 20, 2019.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/28/2019)

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** respectfully urging the President and
2 the Congress of the United States to enact the “Huntington’s
3 Disease Parity Act.”
4
5 **WHEREAS**, Huntington’s disease is an incurable, inherited disorder
6 that causes the breakdown of neurons in the brain, and results in the
7 progressive deterioration of the individual’s physical and mental
8 abilities and psychological health; and
9 **WHEREAS**, The disease was first identified in 1872 by Dr. George
10 Huntington, and was originally known as Huntington’s Chorea, the
11 term for the involuntary muscle movements and twitches of the
12 face, trunk, or extremities that are characteristic of the disease; and
13 **WHEREAS**, Symptoms of the disease include abnormal body postures,
14 changes in behavior, emotion, judgment, and cognition, slurred
15 speech, impaired coordination, and difficulty eating and
16 swallowing; and
17 **WHEREAS**, More than 200,000 Americans are at-risk of inheriting
18 Huntington’s disease, and more than 30,000 currently suffer from
19 the disease, which affects all racial and ethnic groups; and
20 **WHEREAS**, Although prescription medications can help alleviate
21 chorea and some of the psychiatric manifestations of the disease,
22 including hallucinations, depression, and anxiety, the side effects of
23 these drugs include fatigue, sedation, restlessness, and decreased
24 concentration; and
25 **WHEREAS**, Because of the progressive, degenerative nature of
26 Huntington’s disease, individuals with the disease become
27 increasingly disabled over time, lose the ability to live
28 independently, and require increasing levels of care and support;
29 and
30 **WHEREAS**, There is no treatment that can stop or reverse the
31 progression of Huntington’s disease, and patients generally endure
32 its symptoms for 15 to 20 years before succumbing to its
33 complications; and
34 **WHEREAS**, Individuals who are disabled by Huntington’s disease and
35 are determined to be eligible for Social Security Disability benefits
36 must then wait two years, pursuant to current rules, before they are
37 eligible to receive Medicare benefits; and
38 **WHEREAS**, The “Huntington’s Disease Parity Act” currently pending
39 in both houses of Congress would waive the 24-month waiting
40 period for Medicare eligibility for individuals disabled by
41 Huntington’s disease; and
42 **WHEREAS**, In order that those disabled by this incapacitating, genetic
43 disorder can timely access the much needed healthcare benefits that
44 Medicare provides; now, therefore,

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly floor amendments adopted June 20, 2019.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the*
2 *General Assembly concurring):*

3

4 1. The Legislature of this State respectfully urges the President
5 and the Congress of the United States to enact the “Huntington’s
6 Disease Parity Act,” currently pending as H.R. ¹**【2589】** 2770¹ in the
7 House of Representatives and S. ¹**【1197】** 1476¹ in the Senate.

8

9 2. Copies of this Resolution, as filed with the Secretary of
10 State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly or
11 the Secretary of the Senate to the President and Vice President of
12 the United States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United
13 States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States
14 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress elected
15 from this State.