WHEREAS, Parkinson’s disease is a chronic, progressive neurological disease and the second most common neurodegenerative disease in America; and

WHEREAS, there is inadequate data on the incidence of Parkinson’s disease, but it is estimated to affect more than 1 million people in the United States and more than 4,000 people in Idaho, and at current growth rates the number of diagnoses is projected to more than double by 2040; and

WHEREAS, Parkinson’s disease is the 14th leading cause of death in the United States according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the economic burden of Parkinson’s disease is at least $14.4 billion annually, including indirect costs to patients and family members of $6.3 billion; and

WHEREAS, research suggests the cause of Parkinson’s disease is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, but the exact cause and progression of the disease remains unknown; and

WHEREAS, there is no objective test or biomarker for Parkinson’s disease, and there is no cure or drug to slow or halt the progression of the disease; and

WHEREAS, the symptoms of Parkinson’s disease vary from person to person and can include tremors, slowness of movement and rigidity, difficulty with balance, swallowing, chewing and speaking, cognitive impairment and dementia, mood disorders, constipation, skin problems and sleep difficulties; and

WHEREAS, volunteers, researchers, caregivers and medical professionals are working to improve the quality of life for persons living with Parkinson’s disease and their families; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C.L. “BUTCH” OTTER, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim April 2017 to be

PARKINSON’S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

in Idaho.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 3rd day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred forty-first and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred twenty-seventh.

C.L. “BUTCH” OTTER
GOVERNOR

LAWERENCE DENNEY
SECRETARY OF STATE