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International Essential Tremor Foundation

Your Voice for Essential Tremor

IETF ANNOUNCES MARCH IS NATIONAL ESSENTIAL TREMOR AWARENESS MONTH

Former U.S. Representative Dennis Moore (D-KS) and the International Essential Tremor Foundation lead effort to spotlight medical condition that affects nearly 10 million Americans

Lenexa, Kansas (March 1, 2017) – The International Essential Tremor Foundation (IETF) proudly recognizes the anniversary of House Resolution (H.RES.) 1264, sponsored by former Congressman Dennis Moore (Third District - Kansas), officially designating the month of March as "National Essential Tremor Awareness Month."

Essential tremor, a neurological movement disorder commonly referred to as "ET", affects nearly 10 million people in the U.S. ET is frequently misdiagnosed as Parkinson's disease although it is eight times more common. The condition is characterized by rhythmic, involuntary shaking of the hands during movement, but it can also affect the head, voice, legs and trunk. Some people even feel an internal shake.

While not life threatening, ET is a serious and progressive condition that can significantly affect a person's quality of life – socially, professionally and emotionally. ET can make everyday activities such as eating, drinking, speaking, grooming, and writing difficult, if not impossible. At this time, there are few treatment options and there is no cure.

Rep. Moore first learned of ET when a close personal friend was diagnosed with the condition. "I've seen firsthand the everyday struggles that an ET patient must conquer: the difficulty buttoning one's shirt, the challenge of lifting a glass of water to your mouth or even signing your name," said Moore. "I thought to myself, if one of my close friends wasn't affected by ET, I wouldn't even know about this very serious condition and the challenges it presents to patients and their caregivers. That's a problem that I hope the passage of this bill will change."

H.RES. 1264 received geographically diverse and bi-partisan support among House members. In addition to the efforts of Rep. Moore, who sponsored the legislation, the IETF is grateful for all 56 House members who co-sponsored the bill.

"March is an important time for the essential tremor community," said Patrick McCartney, executive director of the International Essential Tremor Foundation. "It is our opportunity to bring greater awareness to a condition that affects so many but is still barely understood. Raising awareness facilitates understanding and compassion for those living with this life-altering condition, and aids in raising much needed funds to help find the cause of and cure for ET."

Despite the large number of people directly affected by ET, there is still very little awareness of the disorder. To learn more about ET and to get involved with ET Awareness Month, visit the IETF website at www.essentialtremor.org/AwarenessTools.

About The International Essential Tremor Foundation
Headquartered in Lenexa, KS, and founded in 1988, the International Essential Tremor Foundation is the leading organization in the world dedicated to those affected by essential tremor. The mission of the IETF is to fund research that will find the cause of essential tremor and lead to better treatments and a cure,

increase awareness about ET, and provide educational materials, tools and support to healthcare providers, the public, and those directly affected by ET.

The IETF has distributed more than $750,000 in research grants, to fund numerous promising studies, in the search for the cause of ET. The Foundation has hosted numerous community awareness events across the U.S. to provide those affected with the basic knowledge necessary to become their own advocate when seeking treatment. And, the IETF also provides assistance to a vast network of support groups around the world. To learn more about essential tremor and the IETF mission, visit the IETF website at www.essentialtremor.org.

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