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SENATE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Multiple sclerosis (MS) can impact individuals of  
3 all ages, races, and ethnicities but is at least two to three  
4 times more common in women than in men; and

5           WHEREAS, There are approximately 2,300,000 individuals  
6 worldwide who have been diagnosed with MS; and

7           WHEREAS, In a study presented in October 2017 by the  
8 European Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple  
9 Sclerosis, preliminary results from leading experts estimate  
10 nearly one million people are living with MS in the United  
11 States alone, which is more than twice the previously reported  
12 number of 400,000; and

13           WHEREAS, The Greater Illinois Chapter of the National  
14 Multiple Sclerosis Society shows 18,365 persons living with MS,  
15 and, as not all people register with the Society, the true  
16 number of persons living with MS in this area is higher; and

17           WHEREAS, In Illinois, the Department of Public Health  
18 collaborates with community partners to improve the health of  
19 people at risk for, or affected by, MS; and

20           WHEREAS, MS is typically diagnosed in individuals between

1 the ages of 20 and 50, but it is estimated that between 8,000  
2 and 10,000 children and adolescents are living with MS in the  
3 United States; and

4 WHEREAS, MS is an unpredictable and often disabling disease  
5 of the central nervous system that disrupts the flow of  
6 information within the brain and between the brain and the  
7 body; and

8 WHEREAS, Symptoms of MS range from numbness and tingling to  
9 vision problems and paralysis, and the progress, severity, and  
10 specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be  
11 predicted; and

12 WHEREAS, While there is no evidence that MS is directly  
13 inherited, studies show that there are genetic and  
14 environmental factors that give certain individuals a higher  
15 risk of developing MS; and

16 WHEREAS, The exact cause of MS is still unknown, and there  
17 is no cure for MS; and

18 WHEREAS, The Multiple Sclerosis Coalition, a national  
19 network of independent MS organizations dedicated to the  
20 enhancement of the quality of life of individuals affected by  
21 MS, recognizes and supports Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, The mission of the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition is  
3 to increase opportunities for cooperation and to provide  
4 greater opportunity to leverage the effective use of resources  
5 for the benefit of the MS community; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2012, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
7 was a founding member of the International Progressive MS  
8 Alliance, which coordinates research to accelerate the  
9 development of treatments for progressive MS by removing  
10 international scientific and technological barriers, and, as  
11 of 2018, includes 17 MS organizations from 17 countries, nine  
12 foundation and trust members, and seven pharmaceutical  
13 partners; and

14 WHEREAS, The Multiple Sclerosis Coalition recognizes and  
15 supports Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week during March of  
16 every calendar year; and

17 WHEREAS, The goals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week are  
18 to invite people to join the movement to end MS, to encourage  
19 everyone to do something to demonstrate a commitment to moving  
20 toward a world free of MS, and to acknowledge those who have  
21 dedicated time and talent to help promote MS research and  
22 programs; and

1           WHEREAS, Building awareness is a year-round effort, and MS  
2 Awareness Week serves as a platform for everyone affected by MS  
3 across the country to share strategies and experiences to live  
4 their best lives in the belief that together we are stronger;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, In 2019, Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week is  
7 recognized during the week of March 10 through March 16;  
8 therefore, be it

9           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL  
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare the week of  
11 March 10 through March 16, 2019 as Illinois Multiple Sclerosis  
12 Awareness Week; and be it further

13           RESOLVED, That we support the goals and ideals of Multiple  
14 Sclerosis Awareness Week and encourage municipalities to  
15 support the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness  
16 Week by issuing proclamations designating Multiple Sclerosis  
17 Awareness Week; and be it further

18           RESOLVED, That we encourage media organizations to  
19 participate in Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week to help  
20 provide education to the public about multiple sclerosis; and  
21 be it further

1           RESOLVED, That we encourage residents to help ensure that  
2 more people understand what life with MS can be like by sharing  
3 the stories of those living with MS on social media and by  
4 using the hashtag #ThisIsMS; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That we commend the efforts of municipalities to  
6 support the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness  
7 Week and recognize and reaffirm the commitment of the State of  
8 Illinois to ending MS by promoting awareness about individuals  
9 that are affected by MS and supporting MS research and  
10 education programs; and be it further

11           RESOLVED, That we recognize all individuals living with MS  
12 and express gratitude to the family members and friends of  
13 individuals living with multiple sclerosis who are a source of  
14 love and encouragement for those individuals, and we salute the  
15 healthcare professionals and medical researchers who provide  
16 assistance to individuals affected by MS; these professionals  
17 continue to work to find ways to stop multiple sclerosis, to  
18 restore what has been lost due to MS, and to end MS forever.