



HR0016

LRB102 10286 ECR 15613 r

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20

HOUSE RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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
5 disease of the central nervous system that disrupts the flow
6 of information within the brain and between the brain and the
7 body; and

8 WHEREAS, Symptoms of MS range from numbness and tingling
9 to vision problems and paralysis, and the progress, severity,
10 and 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 is a national
19 network of independent MS organizations dedicated to the
20 enhancement of the quality of life of individuals affected by
21 MS; and

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

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

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

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

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

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
7 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we declare the week of March 10 through March 17, 2021 as
9 Illinois Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week, and we declare
10 March 19, 2021 as Illinois Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Day;
11 and be it further

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

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

21 RESOLVED, That we encourage residents to help ensure that
22 more people understand what life with MS can be like by sharing

1 the stories of those living with MS on social media and by
2 using the hashtag #ThisIsMS; and be it further

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

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