



HR0706

LRB102 26541 LAW 37148 r

1

HOUSE 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 that 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  
15 MS, 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  
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; 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 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, The National Multiple Sclerosis Society has been  
6 a driving force of MS research since 1946, relentlessly  
7 pursuing prevention, treatments, and a cure; the society has  
8 invested more than \$1 billion in groundbreaking research; and

9           WHEREAS, Funds raised through the National Multiple  
10 Sclerosis Society fuel research on pathways to MS cures and  
11 invest in the MS research workforce at the best medical  
12 centers, universities, and other institutions throughout the  
13 U.S. and abroad, leading to many breakthroughs in the  
14 treatment of MS; and

15           WHEREAS, In 2012, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
16 was a founding member of the International Progressive MS  
17 Alliance, which coordinates research to accelerate the  
18 development of treatments for progressive MS by removing  
19 international scientific and technological barriers and, as of  
20 2018, includes 17 MS organizations from 17 countries, nine  
21 foundation and trust members, and seven pharmaceutical  
22 partners; and

1           WHEREAS, The Multiple Sclerosis Coalition recognizes and  
2 supports Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week and Day every year;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, The goals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week  
5 and Day are to invite people to join the movement to end MS, to  
6 encourage everyone to do something to demonstrate a commitment  
7 to moving toward a world free of MS, and to acknowledge those  
8 who have dedicated time and talent to help promote MS research  
9 and programs; and

10           WHEREAS, Building awareness is a year-round effort, and MS  
11 Awareness Week and Day serve as a platform for everyone  
12 affected by MS across the country to share strategies and  
13 experiences to live their best lives in the belief that  
14 together we are stronger; therefore, be it

15           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
16 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
17 we declare the week of March 13 through March 19, 2022 as  
18 Illinois Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week, and we declare May  
19 30, 2022 as Illinois Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Day; and be  
20 it further

21           RESOLVED, That we support the goals and ideals of Multiple

1 Sclerosis Awareness Week and Day and encourage municipalities  
2 to support the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis  
3 Awareness Week and Day by issuing proclamations designating  
4 Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week and Day; and be it further

5       RESOLVED, That we encourage media organizations to  
6 participate in Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week and Day to  
7 help provide education to the public about multiple sclerosis;  
8 and be it further

9       RESOLVED, That we encourage residents to help ensure that  
10 more people understand what life with MS can be like by sharing  
11 the stories of those living with MS on social media and by  
12 using the hashtags #ThisIsMS and #MSConnections; and be it  
13 further

14       RESOLVED, That we commend the efforts of municipalities to  
15 support the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness  
16 Week and Day and recognize and reaffirm the commitment of the  
17 State of Illinois to ending MS by promoting awareness about  
18 individuals that are affected by MS and supporting MS research  
19 and education programs; and be it further

20       RESOLVED, That we recognize all individuals living with MS  
21 and express gratitude to the family members and friends of  
22 individuals living with multiple sclerosis who are a source of

1 love and encouragement for those individuals, and we salute  
2 the healthcare professionals and medical researchers who  
3 provide assistance to individuals affected by MS; these  
4 professionals continue to work to find ways to stop multiple  
5 sclerosis, to restore what has been lost due to MS, and to end  
6 MS forever.