



HR0057

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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, The Illinois 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, but 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; therefore, be it

6           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
7 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
8 we declare the week of March 12 through March 18, 2023 as  
9 Illinois Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week, and we declare  
10 March 18, 2023 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 recognize all individuals living with MS  
4 and express gratitude to the family members and friends of  
5 individuals living with multiple sclerosis who are a source of  
6 love and encouragement for those individuals, and we salute  
7 the healthcare professionals and medical researchers who  
8 provide assistance to individuals affected by MS as these  
9 professionals continue to work to find ways to stop multiple  
10 sclerosis, to restore what has been lost due to MS, and to end  
11 MS forever.