

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 477

Supporting the goals and ideals of designating March 2008 as National
Multiple Sclerosis Education and Awareness Month.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 10, 2008

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Ms. SNOWE) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and
Pensions

RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of designating March 2008
as National Multiple Sclerosis Education and Awareness
Month.

Whereas multiple sclerosis can impact men and women of all
ages;

Whereas multiple sclerosis affects men and women of all
races and ethnicities;

Whereas approximately 400,000 Americans live with multiple
sclerosis;

Whereas approximately 2,500,000 people worldwide have
been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis;

Whereas approximately 200 people a week are diagnosed with
multiple sclerosis;

Whereas over 400 cases of childhood multiple sclerosis have been identified in medical journals since 1980 and it is estimated that between 8,000 and 10,000 children and adolescents are affected;

Whereas the exact cause of multiple sclerosis is still unknown;

Whereas the symptoms of multiple sclerosis are unpredictable and vary from person to person;

Whereas there is no laboratory test available for multiple sclerosis;

Whereas multiple sclerosis is not genetic, contagious, or directly inherited, but studies show there are genetic factors that indicate certain individuals are susceptible to the disease;

Whereas multiple sclerosis symptoms occur when an immune system attack affects the myelin, destroying it and replacing it with scar tissue and severing nerve fibers interfering with the transmission of nerve signals;

Whereas in rare cases multiple sclerosis is so progressive it is fatal;

Whereas there is no known cure for multiple sclerosis; and

Whereas March 2008 is recognized as National Multiple Sclerosis Education and Awareness Month: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) supports the goals and ideals of National
3 Multiple Sclerosis Education and Awareness Month;

4 (2) invites the chief executive officers of the
5 States, territories, and possessions of the United

1 States to issue proclamations designating March
2 2008 as National Multiple Sclerosis Education and
3 Awareness Month and recognizing the goals and
4 ideals of National Multiple Sclerosis Education and
5 Awareness Month;

6 (3) commends the efforts of the States, terri-
7 tories, and possessions of the United States, local-
8 ities, non-profit organizations, businesses, and other
9 entities and the people of the United States who
10 support the goals and ideals of National Multiple
11 Sclerosis Education and Awareness Month;

12 (4) recognizes and reaffirms our Nation's com-
13 mitment to combating multiple sclerosis by pro-
14 moting awareness about its causes and risks and by
15 promoting new education programs, supporting re-
16 search, and expanding access to medical treatment;
17 and

18 (5) recognizes all Americans living with mul-
19 tiple sclerosis, expresses gratitude to their family
20 members and friends who are a source of love and
21 encouragement to them, and salutes the health care
22 professionals and medical researchers who provide
23 assistance to those so afflicted and continue to work
24 to find cures and improve treatments.

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