

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 439

Supporting the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 19, 2018

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. MORAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis
Awareness Week.

Whereas multiple sclerosis (referred to in this preamble as “MS”) can impact individuals of all ages, races, and ethnicities, but MS is at least 2 to 3 times more common in women than in men;

Whereas there are approximately 2,300,000 individuals worldwide who have been diagnosed with MS;

Whereas MS is typically diagnosed in individuals between the ages of 20 and 50, but it is estimated that between 8,000 and 10,000 children and adolescents are living with MS in the United States;

Whereas MS is an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system that disrupts the flow of in-

formation within the brain and between the brain and the body;

Whereas symptoms of MS range from numbness and tingling to vision problems and paralysis, and the progress, severity, and specific symptoms of MS in any 1 person cannot yet be predicted;

Whereas, while there is no evidence that MS is directly inherited, studies show that there are genetic and environmental factors that give certain individuals a higher risk of developing MS;

Whereas the exact cause of MS is unknown, and there is no cure for MS;

Whereas the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition, a national network of independent MS organizations dedicated to the enhancement of the quality of life of individuals affected by MS, recognizes and supports Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

Whereas the mission of the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition is to increase opportunities for cooperation and to provide greater opportunity to leverage the effective use of resources for the benefit of the MS community;

Whereas the United States plays a critical role in coordinating MS research globally and amplifies the impact of research in the United States through which results are delivered to MS patients;

Whereas, in 2012, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society was a founding member of the International Progressive MS Alliance, which coordinates research to accelerate the development of treatments for progressive MS by removing international scientific and technological barriers and, as of 2018, includes 17 MS organizations from 17 coun-

tries, 9 foundation and trust members, and 7 pharmaceutical partners;

Whereas the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition recognizes and supports Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week during March each year;

Whereas the goals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week are—

- (1) to invite people to join the movement to end MS;
- (2) to encourage everyone to do something to demonstrate a commitment to moving toward a world free of MS; and
- (3) to acknowledge those who have dedicated time and talent to help promote MS research and programs; and

Whereas, in 2018, Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week is recognized during the week of March 11 through March 17: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) supports the goals and ideals of Multiple
3 Sclerosis Awareness Week;

4 (2) encourages States, localities, and the terri-
5 tories and possessions of the United States to sup-
6 port the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis
7 Awareness Week by issuing proclamations desig-
8 nating Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

9 (3) encourages media organizations—

10 (A) to participate in Multiple Sclerosis
11 Awareness Week; and

1 (B) to help provide education to the public
2 about multiple sclerosis;

3 (4) commends the efforts of States, localities,
4 and the territories and possessions of the United
5 States to support the goals and ideals of Multiple
6 Sclerosis Awareness Week;

7 (5) recognizes and reaffirms the commitment of
8 the United States to ending multiple sclerosis by—

9 (A) promoting awareness about individuals
10 that are affected by multiple sclerosis; and

11 (B) supporting multiple sclerosis research
12 and education programs;

13 (6) recognizes all individuals in the United
14 States living with multiple sclerosis;

15 (7) expresses gratitude to the family members
16 and friends of individuals living with multiple scler-
17 rosis, who are a source of love and encouragement
18 for those individuals; and

19 (8) salutes the health care professionals and
20 medical researchers who—

21 (A) provide assistance to individuals af-
22 fected by multiple sclerosis; and

23 (B) continue to work to find ways—
24 (i) to stop multiple sclerosis;

- 1 (ii) to restore what has been lost due
- 2 to multiple sclerosis; and
- 3 (iii) to end multiple sclerosis forever.

○