

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 2017, includes 16 MS organizations from 15 countries, 8 foundation and trust members, and 5 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 2017, Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week is recognized during the week of March 5 through March 11: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

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

(2) encourages States, localities, and the territories and possessions of the United States to support the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week by issuing proclamations designating Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

(3) encourages media organizations—

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

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

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

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

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

(B) supporting multiple sclerosis research and education programs;

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

(7) expresses gratitude to the family members and friends of individuals living with multiple sclerosis, who are a source of love and encouragement for those individuals; and

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

(A) provide assistance to individuals affected by multiple sclerosis; and

(B) continue to work to find ways—

(i) to stop multiple sclerosis;

(ii) to restore what has been lost due to multiple sclerosis; and

(iii) to end multiple sclerosis forever.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have eight requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

#### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be author-

ized to hold a meeting during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 1, 2017, at 10 a.m. in room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, entitled "Connecting America: Improving Access to Infrastructure for Communities Across the Country."

#### COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 1, 2017, at 10:30 a.m., in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate office building, to conduct a hearing entitled, "Flood Control Infrastructure: Safety Questions Raised by Current Events."

#### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 1, 2017, at 10:30 a.m., in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, to consider nomination.

#### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on March 1, 2017, following the first vote on the Senate Floor, in the Capitol, to conduct an executive business meeting.

#### COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 1, 2017, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "The Effects of Border Insecurity and Lax Immigration Enforcement on American Communities."

#### COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 1, 2017, at 10 a.m., in room SD-G50 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a legislative presentation of The American Legion.

#### COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 1, 2017, at 2 p.m., in room SD-G50 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a legislative presentation of Veterans of Foreign Wars.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

The Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 1, 2017, at 10:15 a.m., in closed session, to receive testimony on Global Counterterrorism.

#### SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 77, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 77) supporting the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 77) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and upon the recommendation of the Democratic leader, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, appoints the following Senator as Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the British-American Interparliamentary Group Conference during the 115th Congress: the Honorable Patrick J. Leahy of Vermont.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following leader remarks on Thursday, March 2, there be 20 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to the confirmation vote on Executive Calendar No. 5, the nomination of Ben Carson to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, followed by up to 10 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to the cloture vote on Executive Calendar No. 9, the nomination of Rick Perry to be Secretary of Energy, and if cloture is invoked, time be counted as if invoked at 7 a.m. that day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2017

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, March 2; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Carson nomination as under the previous order.