

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 51st Legislature (2008)

3 SENATE CONCURRENT
4 RESOLUTION 58

By: Adelson of the Senate

and

5 Lamons of the House
6

7
8 AS INTRODUCED

9 A Concurrent Resolution recognizing the importance of
10 finding the cause and cure for multiple sclerosis;
11 expressing appreciation to the Oklahoma Chapter of
12 the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for its work;
13 proclaiming March 2008 "Multiple Sclerosis Awareness
14 Month"; and directing distribution.

15 WHEREAS, multiple sclerosis (MS) is a neurological disease of
16 the central nervous system, affecting an estimated 400,000 Americans
17 across this country. Nationwide, nearly 200 new cases of multiple
18 sclerosis are being diagnosed each week. Multiple sclerosis
19 generally strikes young adults aged 20 through 40 years, attacking
20 them in the prime of their lives. Some of these young adults
21 diagnosed with multiple sclerosis experience tremendous suffering
22 and pain, leading to total paralysis in some cases. The cause and
23 cure for this debilitating disease remain unknown; and

24 WHEREAS, the estimated annual economic impact of MS is \$23
billion and the annual economic impact of MS on a family is \$59,000.

1 MS may cost an individual an estimated \$22,000 annually on lost
2 wages, and the cost of health care for an individual is estimated
3 annually at \$21,500. The need for accessible housing and home
4 modifications cost people with MS over half a billion dollars a
5 year; and

6 WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis
7 Society reports that in our state more than 21,000 people are
8 affected directly or indirectly by this devastating disease. The
9 Oklahoma Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society has been
10 committed throughout the years to heightened public knowledge and
11 insight about this devastating and sometimes crippling disease.
12 This dedicated Oklahoma Chapter is currently planning several major
13 statewide fund-raisers and educational programs, in order to raise
14 awareness about the effects of multiple sclerosis. Multiple
15 Sclerosis Walks are scheduled this year in Lawton on March 29, in
16 Oklahoma City on April 12, in Tulsa on April 19, and in Ponca City
17 on May 3. The Women Against Multiple Sclerosis (WAMS) Luncheon is
18 scheduled for April 16 at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage
19 Museum in Oklahoma City. Last year in Oklahoma more than \$1.5
20 million was raised to find the cure of MS and develop effective
21 treatments for the disease, as well as provide a wide range of
22 client programs to improve the lives of the 3,000 individuals living
23 with MS in our state. Finding the cause of and developing a method
24 of prevention for multiple sclerosis is an important task that all

1 Americans and Oklahomans should support. The National Multiple
2 Sclerosis Society has declared March 10-17, 2008, as "MS Awareness
3 Week".

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION
5 OF THE 51ST OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
6 CONCURRING THEREIN:

7 THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature recognizes the importance of
8 finding the cause and cure for multiple sclerosis, a terribly
9 perplexing and painful disease which affects hundreds of thousands
10 of Americans, including many Oklahomans.

11 THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature expresses its appreciation
12 and admiration for the work that the Oklahoma Chapter of the
13 National Multiple Sclerosis Society has done over the years to
14 heighten the public's knowledge and insight about this debilitating
15 disease.

16 THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature proclaims March 2008
17 "Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month" in the State of Oklahoma and
18 encourages the citizens of this great state to join in the fight to
19 end this devastating disease.

20 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Patrick Evans,
21 Chair of Government Relations, Oklahoma Chapter of the National
22 Multiple Sclerosis Society; Paula Cortner, President, Oklahoma
23 Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society; and David
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1 Carder, Chair of the Board, Oklahoma Chapter of the National
2 Multiple Sclerosis Society.

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