

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 HOUSE CONCURRENT
4 RESOLUTION 1061

By: Lamons

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

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

14 WHEREAS, multiple sclerosis is a neurological disease of the
15 central nervous system, affecting an estimated 400,000 Americans
16 across this country; and

17 WHEREAS, nearly 200 new cases of multiple sclerosis are being
18 diagnosed each week nationwide; and

19 WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Multiple
20 Sclerosis Society reports that in our state more than 21,000 people
21 are affected by this devastating disease; and

22 WHEREAS, multiple sclerosis generally strikes young adults aged
23 20 through 40, attacking them in the prime of their lives; and
24

1 WHEREAS, some of these young adults diagnosed with multiple
2 sclerosis experience tremendous suffering and pain, leading to total
3 paralysis in some cases; and

4 WHEREAS, the cause and cure for this debilitating disease
5 remain unknown; and

6 WHEREAS, the estimated annual economic impact of multiple
7 sclerosis is \$23 billion; and

8 WHEREAS, the annual economic impact of multiple sclerosis on a
9 family is \$59,000.00; and

10 WHEREAS, the need for accessible housing and home modifications
11 cost people with multiple sclerosis over a half a billion dollars a
12 year; and

13 WHEREAS, multiple sclerosis may cost an individual an estimated
14 \$22,000.00 annually on lost wages; and

15 WHEREAS, the cost of health care for an individual is estimated
16 annually at \$21,500.00; and

17 WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Multiple
18 Sclerosis Society has been committed throughout the years to
19 heightening public knowledge and insight about this devastating and
20 sometimes crippling disease; and

21 WHEREAS, this dedicated Oklahoma Chapter is currently planning
22 several major statewide fundraisers and educational programs in
23 order to raise awareness about the effects of multiple sclerosis;
24 and

1 WHEREAS, Multiple Sclerosis Walks are scheduled this year in
2 Lawton on March 29, in Oklahoma City on April 12, in Tulsa on April
3 19; and in Ponca City on May 3; and

4 WHEREAS, the Women Against Multiple Sclerosis (WAMS) Luncheon
5 is scheduled for April 16 at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage
6 Museum in Oklahoma City; and

7 WHEREAS, last year in Oklahoma, more than \$1.5 million was
8 raised to find the cure for multiple sclerosis and develop effective
9 treatments for the disease, as well as provide a wide range of
10 client programs to improve the lives of the 3,000 individuals living
11 with multiple sclerosis in our state; and

12 WHEREAS, finding the cause and developing a method of
13 prevention for multiple sclerosis is an important task that all
14 Americans and Oklahomans should support; and

15 WHEREAS, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society has declared
16 March 10 - 17, 2008, as Multiple Awareness Week.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
18 OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 51ST OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE
19 CONCURRING THEREIN:

20 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature recognizes the importance of
21 finding the cause and cure for multiple sclerosis, a terribly
22 perplexing and painful disease which affects hundreds of thousands
23 of Americans, including many Oklahomans.

24

1 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature expresses its appreciation and
2 admiration for the major work that the Oklahoma Chapter of the
3 National Multiple Sclerosis Society has done over the years to
4 heighten the public's knowledge and insight about this debilitating
5 disease.

6 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature proclaims March 2008 as "Multiple
7 Sclerosis Awareness Month" and encourages the citizens of this great
8 state to join in the fight to end this devastating disease.

9 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Patrick Evans,
10 Chairman of Government Relations, Oklahoma Chapter of the National
11 Multiple Sclerosis Society; Paula Cortner, President, Oklahoma
12 Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society; and David
13 Carder, Chairman of the Board, Oklahoma Chapter of the National
14 Multiple Sclerosis Society.

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