

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 16, 2010

House Concurrent
Resolution No. 1055

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1055 - By: LAMONS of the House.

A Concurrent Resolution recognizing the importance of finding the cause and cure for multiple sclerosis; expressing appreciation to the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for its work; proclaiming March 2010 as Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month; and providing for distribution.

1 WHEREAS, multiple sclerosis is a neurological disease of the central nervous
2 system affecting an estimated 400,000 Americans across this county; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 WHEREAS, the estimated annual economic impact of multiple sclerosis on a family
4 is \$59,000; and

5 WHEREAS, the need for accessible housing and home modifications cost people
6 with multiple sclerosis over a half-billion dollars a year; and

7 WHEREAS, multiple sclerosis may cost an individual at least an estimated \$22,000
8 annually on lost wages; and

9 WHEREAS, the cost of health care for an individual is estimated annually at
10 \$21,500; and

11 WHEREAS, the cost of disease-modifying drugs averages \$3,500 per month; and

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

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

18 WHEREAS, Multiple Sclerosis Walks are scheduled this year in Lawton on April
19 10, in Tulsa on April 24, in Oklahoma City on May 1, in Ardmore on May 22, and in
20 Ponca City on May 23; and

1 WHEREAS, the Women Against Multiple Sclerosis (WAMS) Luncheon is scheduled
2 for April 21 at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, the 25th Annual Bike Multiple Sclerosis Oklahoma will be held on
5 Route 66 between Tulsa to Oklahoma City on September 25 – 26, 2010; and

6 WHEREAS, last year in Oklahoma more than \$1.4 million was raised to find the
7 cure for multiple sclerosis and develop effective treatments for the disease, as well as
8 provide a wide range of client programs to improve the lives of 3,000 individuals living
9 with multiple sclerosis in our state; and

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

12 WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society will
13 host its day at the Capitol on March 23, 2010.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
15 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA
16 LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

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

20 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature expresses its appreciation and admiration for the
21 major work that the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society has

1 done over the years to heighten the knowledge and insight of the public about this
2 debilitating disease.

3 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature proclaims March 2010 as “Multiple Sclerosis
4 Awareness Month” and encourages the citizens of this great state to join in the fight to
5 end this devastating disease.

6 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to George Black, Chair of Government
7 Relations, Oklahoma Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society; Paula Cortner,
8 President, Oklahoma Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society; and Patrick
9 Evans, Chairman of the Board, Oklahoma Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis
10 Society.

11 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.