

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 HOUSE CONCURRENT  
4 RESOLUTION 1010

By: Lamons

5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Concurrent Resolution recognizing the importance of  
8 finding the cause and cure for multiple sclerosis;  
9 expressing appreciation to the Oklahoma Chapter of  
10 the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for its work;  
11 proclaiming March 2009 as Multiple Sclerosis  
12 Awareness Month; and providing for distribution.

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, multiple sclerosis generally strikes young adults aged  
22 20 through 40, attacking them in the prime of their lives; and  
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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 remain  
5 unknown; and

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

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

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

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

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

17       WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis  
18 Society has been committed throughout the years to heightening  
19 public knowledge and insight about this devastating and sometimes  
20 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 28, in Tulsa on April 4, in Oklahoma City on April  
3 25, and in Ponca City in May; and

4       WHEREAS, the Women Against Multiple Sclerosis (WAMS) Luncheon is  
5 scheduled for April 8 at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage  
6 Museum in Oklahoma City; and

7       WHEREAS, the First Annual MS Day of Service will be held on May  
8 30; and

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

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

17       WHEREAS, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society has declared  
18 March 2 through March 8, 2009, as Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week.

19       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
20 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE  
21 CONCURRING THEREIN:

22       THAT the Oklahoma Legislature recognizes the importance of  
23 finding the cause and cure for multiple sclerosis, a terribly  
24

1 perplexing and painful disease, which affects hundreds of thousands  
2 of Americans, including many Oklahomans.

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

8 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature proclaims March 2009 as "Multiple  
9 Sclerosis Awareness Month" and encourages the citizens of this great  
10 state to join in the fight to end this devastating disease.

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

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