

1                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2                                   STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3                                   1st Session of the 53rd Legislature (2011)

4 HOUSE  
5 RESOLUTION 1015

By: McDaniel (Jeannie)

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7                                   AS INTRODUCED

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9                   A Resolution recognizing the importance of finding  
10                   the cause and cure for multiple sclerosis; expressing  
11                   appreciation to the National Multiple Sclerosis  
12                   Society Oklahoma for its work; proclaiming March 2011  
13                   as Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month; and directing  
14                   distribution.

15                   WHEREAS, multiple sclerosis (MS) is a neurological disease of  
16                   the central nervous system, affecting an estimated Four Hundred  
17                   Thousand Americans across this country, and nearly Two Hundred new  
18                   cases of multiple sclerosis are being diagnosed each week  
19                   nationwide. Multiple sclerosis generally strikes young adults 20  
20                   through 40 years of age, but can begin in childhood, attacking them  
21                   in the prime of their lives. Some of these young adults diagnosed  
22                   with MS experience tremendous suffering and pain, which leads to  
23                   total paralysis in some cases. The cause and cure for this  
24                   debilitating disease remain unknown; and

1       WHEREAS, the estimated annual economic impact of MS is \$23  
2 Billion Dollars and the annual economic impact of MS on a family is  
3 \$64,000.00. MS may cost an individual an estimated \$27,000.00  
4 annually in lost wages, and the cost of health care for an  
5 individual is estimated annually at \$39,000.00. The need for  
6 accessible housing and home modifications costs people with MS over  
7 half a billion dollars per year; and

8       WHEREAS, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Oklahoma  
9 reports that in our state more than 24,000 people are affected  
10 directly or indirectly by this destructive disease. The National MS  
11 Society Oklahoma has been committed throughout the years to heighten  
12 public knowledge and insight about this devastating and sometimes  
13 crippling disease; and

14       WHEREAS, the MS Center of Excellence has opened in the heart of  
15 the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation's Research Tower, and  
16 providing world-class care while searching for the cause of and  
17 developing a method of prevention for multiple sclerosis are central  
18 to its mission; and

19       WHEREAS, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Oklahoma  
20 annually plans major statewide fundraisers and educational programs  
21 to raise awareness, provide services and support research efforts in  
22 our state. MS Walks are scheduled this year in Lawton on April 9,  
23 in Tulsa on April 16, in Oklahoma City on April 30, and in Ardmore

1 on May 21. Bike MS - The Mother Road Ride, kicks off in Tulsa and  
2 culminates in Oklahoma City on September 17. Last year, Oklahomans  
3 raised more than \$1.5 Million to fund research and the programs and  
4 services of the National MS Society Oklahoma.

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
6 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 53RD OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

7 THAT the House of Representatives recognizes the importance of  
8 research in finding the cause and cure for multiple sclerosis, a  
9 terribly perplexing and painful disease which affects thousands of  
10 Oklahomans.

11 THAT the House of Representatives expresses its appreciation and  
12 admiration for the work that the National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
13 Oklahoma has done over the years to heighten the knowledge and  
14 insight of the public about MS as well as the long history of the  
15 organization of serving and advocating on behalf of Oklahoma  
16 citizens who live daily with this debilitating disease.

17 THAT the House of Representatives proclaims March 2011 as  
18 "Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month" and encourages the citizens of  
19 this great state to join in the fight to stop this devastating  
20 disease.

21 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to George Black,  
22 Government Relations Chair, and Candace Richerson, Health Resources  
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1 Advocate on behalf of the members of the National Multiple Sclerosis  
2 Society Oklahoma.

3 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.  
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