

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 53rd Legislature (2012)

3 HOUSE CONCURRENT
4 RESOLUTION 1026

By: McDaniel (Jeannie)

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Concurrent Resolution recognizing the importance of
8 finding the cause and cure for multiple sclerosis;
9 stating belief that all Americans and Oklahomans
10 should support finding the cause and developing a
11 method of prevention of multiple sclerosis;
12 expressing appreciation to the Oklahoma Chapter of
13 the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for its work;
14 proclaiming March 2012 as Multiple Sclerosis
15 Awareness Month; and directing distribution.

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

1 WHEREAS, the estimated annual economic impact of MS is \$23
2 billion and the annual economic impact of MS on a family is \$64,000.
3 MS may cost an individual an estimated \$27,000 annually in lost
4 wages, and the cost of health care for an individual is estimated
5 annually at \$39,000. The need for accessible housing and home
6 modifications costs people with MS over one-half billion dollars a
7 year; and

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

19 WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis
20 Society annually plans major statewide fundraisers and educational
21 programs to raise awareness, provide services and support research
22 efforts in our state. MS Walks are scheduled this year in Lawton on
23 April 14, in Tulsa on April 21, in Oklahoma City on May 6, and in
24 Ardmore on May 19. Bike MS: The Mother Road Ride, kicks off in

1 Tulsa and culminates in Oklahoma City on September 16. Last year,
2 Oklahomans raised more than \$1.5 million to fund research and the
3 programs and services of the Oklahoma Chapter of the National
4 Multiple Sclerosis Society.

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
6 OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 53RD OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE
7 CONCURRING THEREIN:

8 THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature recognizes the importance of
9 research in finding the cause and cure for multiple sclerosis, a
10 terribly perplexing and painful disease which affects thousands of
11 Oklahomans, and has worked with the Oklahoma Chapter of the National
12 Multiple Sclerosis Society by passing legislation that created a tax
13 check-off box on the Oklahoma State Income Tax form that raised more
14 than \$7,000 in its first year.

15 THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature believes that finding the
16 cause of and developing a method of prevention for multiple
17 sclerosis are important tasks that all Americans and Oklahomans
18 should support.

19 THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature expresses its appreciation
20 and admiration for the work that the Oklahoma Chapter of the
21 National Multiple Sclerosis Society has done over the years to
22 heighten the public's knowledge and insight about MS and their long
23 history of serving and advocating on behalf of Oklahoma citizens who
24 live daily with this debilitating disease.

1 THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature hereby proclaims March 2012
2 as "Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month" in the State of Oklahoma and
3 encourages the citizens of this great state to join in the fight to
4 stop this disease.

5 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Patti Barker,
6 Board member of the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Multiple
7 Sclerosis Society.

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