

112TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 560

Supporting the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 17, 2012

Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. BURGESS, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. YOUNG of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis  
Awareness Week.

Whereas multiple sclerosis can impact men and women of all ages, races, and ethnicities;

Whereas more than 400,000 Americans live with multiple sclerosis;

Whereas approximately 2,100,000 people worldwide have been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis;

Whereas every hour of every day, someone is newly diagnosed with multiple sclerosis;

Whereas it is estimated that between 8,000 and 10,000 children and adolescents are living with multiple sclerosis;

Whereas the exact cause of multiple sclerosis is still unknown;

Whereas the symptoms of multiple sclerosis are unpredictable and vary from person to person;

Whereas there is no laboratory test available that definitely defines a diagnosis for multiple sclerosis;

Whereas multiple sclerosis is not genetic, contagious, or directly inherited, but studies show there are genetic factors that indicate certain individuals are susceptible to the disease;

Whereas multiple sclerosis symptoms occur when an immune system attack affects the myelin in nerve fibers of the central nervous system, damaging or destroying it and replacing it with scar tissue, thereby interfering with or preventing the transmission of nerve signals;

Whereas in rare cases multiple sclerosis is so progressive it is fatal;

Whereas there is no known cure for multiple sclerosis;

Whereas the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition, an affiliation of multiple sclerosis organizations dedicated to the enhancement of the quality of life for all those affected by multiple sclerosis, recognizes and supports Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

Whereas the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition's mission is to increase opportunities for cooperation and provide greater opportunity to leverage the effective use of resources for the benefit of the multiple sclerosis community;

Whereas the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition recognizes and supports Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week during March of every calendar year;

Whereas the goals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week are to invite people to join the movement to end multiple

sclerosis, encourage everyone to do something to demonstrate their commitment to moving toward a world free of multiple sclerosis, and to acknowledge those who have dedicated their time and talent to help promote multiple sclerosis research and programs; and

Whereas this year Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week is recognized during the week of March 12, 2012, through March 18, 2012: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) supports the goals and ideals of Multiple  
3       Sclerosis Awareness Week;

4               (2) encourages the President to issue a procla-  
5       mation in support of the goals and ideals of Multiple  
6       Sclerosis Awareness Week;

7               (3) encourages States, territories, possessions of  
8       the United States, and localities to support the goals  
9       and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week by  
10      issuing proclamations designating Multiple Sclerosis  
11      Awareness Week;

12              (4) encourages media organizations to partici-  
13      pate in Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week and help  
14      educate the public about multiple sclerosis;

15              (5) commends the efforts of the States, terri-  
16      tories, and possessions of the United States who  
17      support the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis  
18      Awareness Week;

1           (6) recognizes and reaffirms the Nation's com-  
2           mitment to creating a world free of multiple sclerosis  
3           by promoting awareness about people that are af-  
4           fected with multiple sclerosis and by promoting new  
5           education programs, supporting research, and ex-  
6           panding access to medical treatment; and

7           (7) recognizes all people in the United States  
8           living with multiple sclerosis, expresses gratitude to  
9           their family members and friends who are a source  
10          of love and encouragement to them, and salutes the  
11          health care professionals and medical researchers  
12          who provide assistance to those so affected and con-  
13          tinue to work to find ways to stop the progression  
14          of the disease, restore nerve function, and end mul-  
15          tiple sclerosis forever.

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