



## National Lieutenant Governors Association

### **RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MARCH 28 AS PROGRESSIVE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS DAY**

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3 **WHEREAS**, there are nearly one (1) million people in the United States [i] living with Multiple  
4 Sclerosis (MS), a chronic, disabling disease of the central nervous system for which there is no cure;  
5 and

6 **WHEREAS**, up to 80 percent of people with MS may develop a progressive form of the disease,  
7 characterized as progressive worsening of neurologic function over time [ii]; and

8 **WHEREAS**, MS is at least two to three times more common in women than in men, and is typically  
9 diagnosed when individuals are in the prime of their lives, between the ages of 20 and 50 [iii]; and

10 **WHEREAS**, MS can cause many symptoms, including blurred vision, loss of balance, poor  
11 coordination, slurred speech, tremors, numbness, extreme fatigue, problems with memory and  
12 concentration, paralysis, blindness and more [iv]; and

13 **WHEREAS**, due to these symptoms and progression of the disease, people with MS, their families,  
14 caregivers, employers, and the entire health care system carry substantial clinical and economic  
15 burdens over of a period of many years [v]; and

16 **WHEREAS** lost productivity related to loss of employment or the need to retire early due to disease  
17 progression may be the largest single factor that contributes to the nonmedical financial, familial and  
18 societal costs of MS [vi]; and

19 **WHEREAS** early and appropriate treatment, including the use of disease-modifying therapies, can  
20 markedly reduce disease activity and accumulation of disability, potentially allowing patients to  
21 have a more active and independent lifestyle. [vii]

22 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that people living with MS, together with their families,  
23 should be empowered to seek out information to make decisions about the treatment and care they  
24 receive [viii].



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25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that March 28, 2018, and annually thereafter, be recognized as  
26 Progressive Multiple Sclerosis Day by the National Lieutenant Governors Association to increase  
27 awareness of this disabling disease and support patients living with progressive forms of MS.

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[i] MS Prevalence. National Multiple Sclerosis Society. [www.nationalmssociety.org/About-the-Society/MS-Prevalence](http://www.nationalmssociety.org/About-the-Society/MS-Prevalence). Accessed December 2017.

[ii] Progressive MS. International Progressive MS Alliance. [www.progressivemsalliance.org/progressive-ms/the-condition/](http://www.progressivemsalliance.org/progressive-ms/the-condition/). Accessed December 2017.

[iii] What is MS? National Multiple Sclerosis Society. <https://www.nationalmssociety.org/What-is-MS/MS-FAQ-s>. Accessed December 2017.

[iv] Ibid.

[v] Owens G. Economic Burden of Multiple Sclerosis and the Role of Managed Care Organizations in Multiple Sclerosis Management. *Am J Manag Care*. 2016;22:S151-S158.

[vi] Ibid.

[vii] Giovannoni G et al. Brain Health: Time Matters In Multiple Sclerosis.

<http://www.msbrainhealth.org/perch/resources/timematters-in-ms-report-oct15.pdf> (Accessed December 2017).

[viii] Multiple Sclerosis International Federation. Principles to Promote the Quality of Life of People with Multiple Sclerosis. <http://www.msif.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Principles-to-Promote-the-Quality-of-Life-of-People-with-MS1.pdf> (Accessed December 2017).

ADOPTED, this day, the 16<sup>th</sup> of March, 2018.

Sponsors: Lt. Gov. Mike Cooney (D – Montana), Lt. Gov. Matt Michels (R – South Dakota), Lt. Gov. Evelyn Sanguinetti (R – Illinois)