



National Lieutenant Governors Association

1 **Resolution Proclaiming March 28 as Progressive Multiple Sclerosis Day**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that March 28, 2021, and annually thereafter, be recognized as
24 Progressive Multiple Sclerosis Day by the National Lieutenant Governors Association to increase
25 awareness of this disabling disease and support patients living with progressive forms of MS.

ADOPTED, this day, the 25th of March, 2021.



National Lieutenant Governors Association

Sponsors: Lt. Governor Molly Gray (D – Vermont), Lt. Governor Adam Gregg (R – Iowa), Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long (D – Delaware), Lt. Governor Kate Marshall (D – Nevada), Lt. Governor Dianne Primavera (D – Colorado)

[i] MS Prevalence. National Multiple Sclerosis Society. 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/. 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).