

No. R-388. House concurrent resolution designating April 15, 2014 as MS Awareness Day in Vermont.

(H.C.R.283)

Offered by: Representatives Krebs of South Hero, Ancel of Calais, Bissonnette of Winooski, Botzow of Pownal, Burke of Brattleboro, Buxton of Tunbridge, Carr of Brandon, Clarkson of Woodstock, Cole of Burlington, Connor of Fairfield, Conquest of Newbury, Consejo of Sheldon, Dakin of Chester, Emmons of Springfield, Evans of Essex, Frank of Underhill, French of Randolph, Hoyt of Norwich, Johnson of South Hero, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, Klein of East Montpelier, Krowinski of Burlington, Kupersmith of South Burlington, Lanpher of Vergennes, Lenes of Shelburne, Lewis of Berlin, Macaig of Williston, Malcolm of Pawlet, Manwaring of Wilmington, Marek of Newfane, Martin of Springfield, Martin of Wolcott, McCarthy of St. Albans City, McCormack of Burlington, McCullough of Williston, Mook of Bennington, Moran of Wardsboro, O'Brien of Richmond, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Partridge of Windham, Potter of Clarendon, Pugh of South Burlington, Ram of Burlington, Russell of Rutland City, Ryerson of Randolph, South of St. Johnsbury, Spengler of Colchester, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sweaney of Windsor, Till of Jericho, Toll of Danville, Townsend of South Burlington, Vowinkel of Hartford, Waite-Simpson of Essex, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Whereas, multiple sclerosis (MS) is a neurological disease of the central nervous system, affecting 2.3 million people worldwide, and each hour someone is newly diagnosed, and

Whereas, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Greater New England Chapter reports that in Vermont more than 1,600 people are diagnosed with MS, and that the disease generally strikes people in the prime of life, between 20 and 50 years of age, and

Whereas, MS causes unpredictable effects in which the progression, severity, and specific symptoms cannot be foreseen, and the cause and cure for this chronic and often debilitating disease remain unknown, and

Whereas, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Greater New England Chapter has been committed for more than 58 years to a world free of MS, heightening public knowledge about and insight into the disease, and

Whereas, since 1946, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society has been a driving force of MS research, relentlessly pursuing prevention, treatment, and a cure and has invested more than \$771 million in groundbreaking research, and

Whereas, funds raised through the National Multiple Sclerosis Society fuel the efforts of nearly 325 research projects, globally totaling \$40 million annually, at the best medical centers, universities, and other institutions, and because of this, MS researchers have never been more hopeful, and

Whereas, discovering the cause, finding a cure, and preventing future generations from getting MS is an important task that all Americans and Vermonters should support, and

Whereas, the State of Vermont recognizes the importance of finding the cause of and cure for MS, and expresses its appreciation and admiration for the dedication that the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Greater New England Chapter has shown toward a future free of MS, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates April 15, 2014 as MS Awareness Day in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, Greater New England Chapter.