

**No. R-358.** House concurrent resolution designating March 10, 2016 as Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Day in Vermont.

(H.C.R.273)

Offered by: Representatives Krebs of South Hero and Johnson of South Hero

Whereas, according to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (the Society), “multiple sclerosis [MS] is a chronic, unpredictable disease of the central nervous system [CNS],” and

Whereas, although symptoms can affect nearly any neurological function, the most common indicators of MS are “overwhelming fatigue, visual disturbances, altered sensation and difficulties with mobility,” and

Whereas, these symptoms result when a person’s “immune system produces inflammation within the CNS,” and

Whereas, MS affects more than 2.3 million persons worldwide, and

Whereas, in 1873, a British physician, Dr. Walter Moxon, recognized MS as a specific disease, and

Whereas, in 1925, Lord Edgar Douglas Adrian’s first recording of nerve transmissions provided a technological breakthrough for the study of MS, and

Whereas, two mid-20th century institutional advancements were Sylvia Lawry’s establishment of the Society in 1946 and the 1950 federal legislation creating what today is known as the National Institute for Neurological Disorders and Stroke, and

Whereas, laboratory advances in the 1970s, treatment trials in the 1980s, and, more recently, the increasing sophistication of magnetic resonance imaging technology and the advancement of gene research have all expanded scientists’ understanding of MS, and

Whereas, new treatment options, along with improved health care and lifestyle changes, have extended the life expectancy for persons with MS, and

Whereas, despite these positive developments, MS continues to result in consequential and unwelcomed impacts on people’s lives, and more research is required to eradicate the disease, and

Whereas, representatives of the Greater New England Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society are visiting the State House today to inform members of the General Assembly about the challenges that MS poses for individuals and society at large, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates March 10, 2016 as Multiple Sclerosis 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 Greater New England Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society.