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Joint Resolution Recognizing Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week, March 14 to March 20, 2011

WHEREAS, multiple sclerosis is a chronic, often disabling disease of the central nervous system that typically strikes in young adulthood and for which there is no cure at present; and

WHEREAS, multiple sclerosis affects 400,000 people nationwide, including 8,000 to 10,000 children and teens; over 3,000 individuals in Maine have the disease, which is one of the highest per capita rates in the nation; and

WHEREAS, there is conclusive evidence of an increased incidence of multiple sclerosis in returning veterans of the Gulf War; and

WHEREAS, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society is a driving force of multiple sclerosis research, pursuing prevention, treatment and cure, and the Greater New England Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society educates, supports and advocates for people with multiple sclerosis and their families to help them maintain the highest possible quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Greater New England Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society encourages individuals with multiple sclerosis and their families, health professionals and other concerned citizens to join the movement to advocate for policy change in the priority areas of high-quality health care, health care coverage, long-term care and disability rights; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to declare that the week of March 14 to March 20, 2011 is designated as Multiple Sclerosis Week; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a suitable copy of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Greater New England Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.