

House Resolution 1570

By: Representatives Williams of the 168th, Stephens of the 164th, Jackson of the 128th, Harden of the 148th, and Smith of the 70th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing March 28, 2018, as Progressive Multiple Sclerosis Day at the state capitol; and
- 2 for other purposes.

- 3 WHEREAS, there are nearly one million people in the United States living with multiple
- 4 sclerosis (MS), a chronic, disabling disease of the central nervous system for which there is
- 5 no cure; and

- 6 WHEREAS, nearly 80 percent of people with MS may develop a progressive form of the
- 7 disease, characterized as progressive worsening of neurological function over time; and

- 8 WHEREAS, MS is between two and three times more common in women than in men and
- 9 is typically diagnosed when individuals are in the prime of their lives, between the ages of
- 10 20 and 50; and

- 11 WHEREAS, this disease can cause many symptoms, including blurred vision, loss of
- 12 balance, poor coordination, slurred speech, tremors, numbness, extreme fatigue, problems
- 13 with memory and concentration, paralysis, blindness, and more; and

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the public be appropriately notified of
24 the severity and symptoms of multiple sclerosis.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
26 the members of this body acknowledge the importance of education regarding the plight of
27 those with multiple sclerosis and recognize March 28, 2018, as Progressive Multiple
28 Sclerosis Day at the state capitol.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
30 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
31 public and the press.