

Senate Resolution 819

By: Senators Williams of the 39th and Brass of the 28th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 28, 2020, as Progressive Multiple Sclerosis Day at the state capitol; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, there are more than 400,000 people in the United States and an estimated 2.3
4 million people globally who are living with multiple sclerosis (MS), a chronic, disabling
5 disease of the central nervous system for which there is 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 SENATE that the members of this body
26 acknowledge the importance of education regarding the plight of those with multiple
27 sclerosis and recognize March 28, 2020, as Progressive Multiple Sclerosis Day at the state
28 capitol.

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