

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 63

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Permanently designating March 28th as “Progressive Multiple Sclerosis Day” in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



SJR63 BEACH

2

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** permanently designating March 28th as
2 “Progressive Multiple Sclerosis Day” in New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a chronic, disabling disease of
5 the central nervous system for which there is no cure; and
6 **WHEREAS**, MS can cause many symptoms, including blurred vision,
7 loss of balance, poor coordination, slurred speech, tremors,
8 numbness, extreme fatigue, problems with memory and
9 concentration, paralysis, and depression; and
10 **WHEREAS**, There are more than 400,000 individuals in the United
11 States, and an estimated 2.3 million individuals globally living with
12 MS; and
13 **WHEREAS**, MS is at least two to three times more common in women
14 than in men, and is typically diagnosed when individuals are in the
15 prime of their lives, between the ages of 20 and 50; and
16 **WHEREAS**, Unlike relapsing forms of MS, progressive MS is
17 characterized by a fairly steady, gradual change in functional ability
18 from the onset of the symptoms of MS, most often related to
19 walking, without the early relapses or remissions normally seen in
20 individuals suffering from MS; and
21 **WHEREAS**, Approximately eighty percent of individuals with MS may
22 develop progressive MS over time; and
23 **WHEREAS**, Due to the symptoms and the progression of the disease,
24 individuals with MS and progressive MS, their families, caregivers,
25 employers, and the health care system carry substantial clinical and
26 economic burdens over a period of many years; and
27 **WHEREAS**, Lost productivity, the loss of employment, or the need to
28 take early retirement due to disease progression may be the largest
29 single factor contributing to the nonmedical, financial, familial, and
30 societal costs of both MS and progressive MS; and
31 **WHEREAS**, Early and appropriate treatment, including the use of
32 disease-modifying therapies can markedly reduce disease activity
33 and the accumulation of disability, allowing those suffering for MS
34 to have a more active and independent lifestyle; and
35 **WHEREAS**, Disease-modifying therapies have not been shown to be
36 effective in reducing the impact of the disease in patients suffering
37 from the progressive form of MS; and
38 **WHEREAS**, Researchers are also exploring mechanisms that drive
39 injury to the brain and spinal cord to expose new potential
40 therapeutic targets for progressive MS; and
41 **WHEREAS**, Increased public awareness and education about MS and
42 progressive MS can effectively improve the overall health of, and
43 empower individuals living with, MS and progressive MS, together
44 with their families, to seek out information to make informed
45 decisions about the treatment and care they receive; now, therefore,
46
47 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
48 *State of New Jersey:*

3

8

14

19

21

24

32