**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO DECLARE FEBRUARY 9, 2016, AS “MS AWARENESS DAY” IN THE PALMETTO STATE AND TO ENCOURAGE ALL SOUTH CAROLINIANS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AND WHAT THEY CAN DO TO SUPPORT MS PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

Whereas, multiple sclerosis (MS) is a neurological disease of the central nervous system that affects at least 2.3 million people worldwide; and

Whereas, the Greater Carolinas Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society reports that in our State we serve more than 5,034 people diagnosed with MS and that the disease generally strikes people in the prime of life, between ages twenty and fifty, and causes unpredictable effects in which the progression, severity, and specific symptoms cannot be foreseen. Also, the cause and cure for this often debilitating disease remain unknown; and

Whereas, since 1946, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, relentlessly pursuing prevention, treatment, and a cure, has been a driving force in supporting groundbreaking MS research and has invested more than $920 million to that cause. The organization also works to heighten public knowledge about, and insight into, the disease while mobilizing people and resources so that all affected by MS can live their best lives. The ultimate goals: stopping MS in its tracks, restoring what has been lost, and ending MS forever; and

Whereas, funds raised through the National Multiple Sclerosis Society fuel the efforts of more than three hundred eighty research projects globally, totaling nearly $54 million annually at the best medical centers, universities, and other institutions throughout the United States and abroad. Therefore, MS research has never been more hopeful than it is today; and

Whereas, discovering the cause, finding a cure, and preventing future generations from being diagnosed with MS is an important task that all Americans and South Carolinians should support; and

Whereas, the great State of South Carolina recognizes the importance of finding the cause and cure of MS, a chronic and often devastating disease, and is grateful for the dedication the Greater Carolinas Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society has shown toward creating a future free of MS. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, declare February 9, 2016, as “MS Awareness Day” in the Palmetto State and encourage all South Carolinians to learn more about multiple sclerosis and what they can do to support MS patients and their families.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the Greater Carolinas Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑