



## MS Activists

- Stay informed and learn about critical policies affecting people living with MS.
- Share their personal story.
- Boldly ask public officials for support.
- Demand legislative progress for people affected by MS.
- Join with other MS activists in the community.
- Tell others about MS activism and post updates online.

*I have written members of Congress, imploring them to keep drug costs reasonable. I want to make sure we aren't penalized for having a disease.*

AMY, MS ACTIVIST, DIAGNOSED IN 2003

## Resources

MS POLICIES & POSITION PAPERS  
nationalMSsociety.org/advocacy

MS ACTIVIST BLOG  
msactivist.blogspot.com

SHARE YOUR STORY  
nationalMSsociety.org/MyStory

CHAPTER CONTACTS FOR STATE ISSUES  
nationalMSsociety.org/chapter

LOOK UP FEDERAL LEGISLATION  
thomas.loc.gov

U.S. GOVERNMENT INFORMATION  
usa.gov

## National MS Society

PUBLIC POLICY OFFICE  
1100 New York Ave. NW, Suite 660E  
Washington, DC 20005  
Tel: + 202-408-1500  
Email: msactivist@nmss.org



**National  
Multiple Sclerosis  
Society**  
Public Policy  
Office



## Be an MS Activist

JOIN THE MOVEMENT®  
nationalMSsociety.org/MSactivist



*It is my hope that we will one day live in a world free of MS, and MS activists' efforts are a vital part of this becoming a reality.*

CONGRESSMAN MICHAEL BURGESS, M.D. (TX)

## Get Involved

We move closer to a world free of MS every day.

YET PEOPLE AFFECTED BY MS  
STILL FACE CHALLENGING ISSUES:

- Costly drug therapies
- Social Security benefits
- Disability rights
- Long-term care and respite resources
- Accessible, affordable insurance
- MS research funding

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society relentlessly advocates for local, state, and federal policies to benefit people affected by MS.

Online and on the ground, thousands of grassroots MS activists are getting involved and taking action.

Many are individuals who live with MS. Some are friends and family members. All have a passion and ability to make a difference.

You can be an MS activist from your home, at the office, or in your community.



## State and Community Activism

In your state and community, MS activism is led by the National MS Society's 50-state chapter network. Grassroots activists pursue policies and programs to meet the needs of people affected by MS. Issues focus on accessibility, health care coverage, housing, transportation, long-term care resources, and more.

## Federal Activism

In Washington, DC, we aggressively pursue federal legislative and regulatory solutions that will enhance the lives of people affected by MS. We advocate for increased MS research funding to better understand the causes of MS, discover effective treatments, and move toward a world free of MS.

*Few experiences are more powerful than activists writing, calling and visiting their public officials advocating for increased awareness of MS. It gives me hope for a cure each time I hear them.*

CONGRESSMAN RUSS CARNAHAN (MO)

## Change Happens Through MS Activism

On behalf of the more than 400,000 people living with MS nationwide, the National MS Society boldly champions issues at the local, state, and federal levels.

WE ARE ALL ACTIVISTS.

We address barriers to accessing health care, expensive and complicated insurance coverage, high-cost prescription drugs, or lack of resources for care at home and in the community. When we collectively raise those issues with decision makers, we become part of important and meaningful change.



## State Success

- Colorado, Delaware, Missouri, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Wisconsin have established a way to donate on the state income tax form, raising more than \$1 million for MS research and programs.
- Legislation in Illinois established a lottery ticket that has raised more than \$2 million for MS research.
- Texas legislation secured \$1 million in state funding for family caregiver respite, which allowed them to qualify for an additional \$200,000 federal grant.
- North Carolina joined 34 other states to create a Health Insurance High-Risk Pool and will continue to provide a safety net for 3,400 otherwise uninsurable individuals.
- Connecticut expanded its Elder Care Program into a new pilot program — the Connecticut Home Care Program — to serve people with MS and other neurological diseases who are 18–64 years old.

*I'm humbled by the work of MS activists. Their work is critically important for those affected by MS.*

GOVERNOR JACK MARKELL (DE)

## Federal Success

- Secured a new federal funding stream that provides millions for MS research.
- Introduced legislation to gain more accurate information on the incidence and prevalence of MS nationwide.
- Shaped major health care reform provisions including lowering out-of-pocket costs and ending discrimination based on pre-existing medical conditions.
- Promoted increased awareness of MS on Capitol Hill by hosting legislative briefings and passing national recognition of MS Awareness Week.
- Raised understanding and established viable programs to support families who are caring for people living with MS.
- Led ongoing activism to improve affordable access to necessary MS treatment options and services.