



**National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society**
National Capital
Chapter

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CONTACT: Vanessa Hernandez or Diane Metzger
(202) 296-5363, option 2
PR @MSandYOU.org

Winter Weather Inspires Virtual Maryland Advocacy Day

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Maryland’s Advocacy Day set for February 18 in Annapolis, Md., was cancelled due to safety concerns regarding icy sidewalks. The local activists were set to meet with 34 different senators and representatives to discuss important measures that will benefit people living with MS in Maryland. Yet the winter weather did not slow down dozens of passionate local volunteer activists who spent their day calling and e-mailing their legislators to discuss issues affecting people living with MS in Maryland.

“As a neurologist, I was an advocate for my patients, especially in dealings with their health insurance carriers,” said Seth Morgan, Maryland resident and MS activist. “I have been lucky to have good health and disability coverage since my own diagnosis, but many people with MS have inadequate healthcare coverage, which is a tragic and daunting dilemma.”

“Thanks to the dedicated work of our MS activists we give voice to people living with MS by raising awareness and calling for change in a positive way” said Chris Broullire, National Capital Chapter President.

Maryland’s platform focused on defending MS fiscal priorities and cost sharing issues. The hearing for **House Bill 478** also took place, and MS activist Robin Steinward testified in support of this bill, which would help prevent health insurers from charging exorbitant cost-sharing fees on expensive prescription drugs. Further MS issues include **long-term care and maintaining OT/PT coverage** as well as **working on accessible transportation issues**, such as the improvement of paratransit service and in-home health care, in order to prevent the needless loss of independence by young people and to help these individuals remain in their homes.

The National Capital Chapter of the National MS Society primarily addresses state and local advocacy issues, but also supports the federal advocacy priorities. The Chapter advocates for policies and programs that will benefit people with MS and their families in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. Individuals can visit www.MSandYou.org to join the MS Action Network in order to receive e-newsletters and MS Action Alerts when important issues need immediate action

About Multiple Sclerosis

Multiple sclerosis interrupts the flow of information from the brain to the body and stops people from moving. Every hour in the United States, someone is newly diagnosed with MS, an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system. Symptoms range from numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis. The progress, severity and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted, but advances in research and treatment are moving us closer to a world free of MS. Most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50, with more than twice as many women as men being diagnosed with the disease. MS affects more than 400,000 people in the U.S., and 2.5 million worldwide.

Studies show that early and ongoing treatment with an FDA-approved therapy can reduce future disease activity and improve quality of life for many people with multiple sclerosis. Talk to your health care professional and contact the National MS Society at www.MSandYOU.org or (202) 296-5363 to learn about ways to help manage multiple sclerosis and about current research that may one day reveal a cure.

About the National Multiple Sclerosis Society

MS stops people from moving. The National MS Society exists to make sure it doesn't. Locally, the National Capital Chapter provides a wide range of vital services in the areas of counseling, education, employment, information and referral, public policy development and advocacy, and financial assistance to the many thousands of people with MS and their families who live in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. For more information about MS or the National Capital Chapter, please call (202) 296-5363 or visit www.MSandYOU.org.

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