

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 4, 2010

For more information, contact:  
Arney Rosenblat - 212-476-0436

## CONGRESSMAN CHRIS VAN HOLLEN HONORED AS NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE YEAR

*Award Recognizes Support of MS Research Funding, Health Care Reform*

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Representative Chris Van Hollen, representing the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District in Maryland, was awarded the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's 2009 Representative of the Year. Grassroots MS activists from Maryland presented the award at a breakfast at the Hilton Washington.

The Maryland and National Capital chapters of the Society applauded Congressman Van Hollen's recent efforts that helped benefit people living with multiple sclerosis. In the U.S. House, Congressman Van Hollen is a leading member of the Congressional Multiple Sclerosis Caucus. He was selected as the Representative whose leadership and dedication to issues most significantly impacted the lives of people with MS. This is the highest honor the Society awards to public officials.

"I am truly honored to receive this award from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, which is on the front lines in the fight to combat this debilitating disease. As thousands of Americans continue to live with Multiple Sclerosis, it is critical that Congress provide adequate funding to the National Institutes of Health to develop new treatments and search for a cure, as well as pass legislation to establish a national surveillance system to accurately report the incidence and prevalence of MS. I will continue to work with my colleagues to enact comprehensive health care reform legislation that will bring more accessible and affordable health care for all Americans," said Congressman Chris Van Hollen (D-MD).

Since joining the U.S. House, Congressman Van Hollen has become a voice for those living with MS. He is the lead sponsor of the MS and Parkinson's Disease Registries Act, which would establish a significant and critical national surveillance system that would provide more accurate and detailed information about the incidence and prevalence of MS. In addition, he supports increased funding for MS research through the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs at the Department of Defense.

"Congressman Chris Van Hollen has earned a reputation for being one of the most tenacious advocates in the House and for helping us move closer to a world free of MS," National MS Society President and CEO Joyce Nelson said. "We're proud to have him as our Representative of the Year for advancing legislation that would create an MS registry for the first time and for supporting increased funding for MS research."

Congressman Van Hollen has a passion for health care issues, and supports accessible, quality, and affordable health care for all. He supports many of the Society's national health care reform principles, and has remained a steadfast proponent of comprehensive health care reform.

*For more information on the Society and MS issues visit:*

*[www.nationalMSSociety.org/advocacy](http://www.nationalMSSociety.org/advocacy). For more information on the Maryland Chapter, the National Capital Chapter, and local programs, visit:*

*[www.nationalMSSociety.org/chapter](http://www.nationalMSSociety.org/chapter).*

###