



Please Support amending SB 78 to the Reinstate the Kansas Disability Access Tax Credit for Individuals

What is multiple sclerosis (MS)?

- MS is an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system.
- MS interrupts the flow of information within the brain, and between the brain and body.
- 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.
- Approximately 4,430 Kansans are living with MS.

Facts About Falls

- 52% Of people with MS aged 45+ reported at least 1 fall in the previous 6 months and 64% of people with MS 55+ reported at least 2 falls per year.
- In 2009, falls led to 7,822 hospital discharges with seniors making up 74% of these falls.
- There were 321 deaths in Kansas in 2009 that were due to falls and seniors made up 88% of all fall deaths.
- The CDC reports falls are the most preventable cause of needing nursing home placement.
- In the United States, 16% of all Emergency Department visits and almost 7 percent of all hospitalizations are for fall-related injuries.
- In 2009 there were an average of 1.9 fall-related hospitalizations per hour, a fall-related emergency department visit every eight minutes and a fall every 2.5 minutes.

Visitability

- A house is visitable when it meets three basic requirements:
 - one zero-step entrance,
 - doors with 32 inches of clear passage space
 - one bathroom on the main floor you can get into in a wheelchair.

Request- Support amending SB 78 in the Senate Assessment & Taxation Committee, to reinstate the Kansas Disability Access Tax Credit (DATC) for Individuals. This will help families affected by multiple sclerosis (MS) make their homes safer.

Background on The Kansas Disability Access Tax Credit for Individuals

- Reinstatement of the Kansas Disability Access Tax would provide up to a \$9,000 non-refundable income tax credit for a taxpayer that makes expenditures for the purpose of making all or any portion of their existing, principle dwelling accessible.
- The accessibility features promoted with this credit represents an evidence-based prevention strategy that has been shown to reduce the incidence of falls among older adults.
- Home modification investments are essential to promote independent living and can help conserve energy, increase efficiency in daily tasks, and avoid dangerous falls.
- Minimal cost to the state of Kansas at \$36,000 per year, on average.