



National  
Multiple Sclerosis  
Society

# Please Support HB 332, The Ohio Livable Homes Tax Credit

## 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 20,000 Ohioans 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, 2.3 older Ohioans suffered fatal falls each day.
- Annual medical costs for fall-related hospitalizations in Ohio total \$298.5 million or \$26 for every Ohio resident.
- 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

Supporting House Bill 322, The Ohio Livable Homes Tax Credit, will help families affected by multiple sclerosis (MS) make their homes safer or buy an accessible home.

## Background on HB 332, The Ohio Livable Homes Tax Credit

- House Bill 332 would provide up to a \$2,500 non-refundable income tax credit for a taxpayer that purchases or constructs a new residence or a contractor that incurs costs in constructing a new home that includes accessibility and visitability features.
- The bill would also provide up to a \$1,000 non-refundable income tax credit for the costs incurred to modify an existing home.
- This tax credit would have an annual cap of \$300,000.
- The accessibility features promoted in HB 332 represent 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.

National MS Society, Ohio Chapters • 1.800.FIGHT MS

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