



National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society

Please Support HB 84, The Ohio Home Renovation 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.

Position: Supporting House Bill 84, The Ohio Home Renovation Tax Credit, will help families affected by multiple sclerosis (MS) make their homes safer or buy an accessible home.

Background on HB 84, The Ohio Home Renovation Tax Credit

- House Bill 84 would provide up to a \$5,000 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 \$5,000 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 credit can be carried over for up to seven years if the filer's liability is not as great as the credit.
- The accessibility features promoted in HB 84 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.