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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 341**

Offered February 25, 2010

*Designating second week in March, in 2010 and in each succeeding year, as Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week in Virginia.*

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Patron—O'Bannon

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Unanimous consent to introduce

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Referred to Committee on Rules

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WHEREAS, multiple sclerosis (MS), an unpredictable and often disabling disease of the central nervous system, disrupts the flow of information between an individual's body and brain; and

WHEREAS, multiple sclerosis is considered an autoimmune disease for which the exact cause is unknown and there is no known cure; and

WHEREAS, the disease affects an estimated 2.5 million people worldwide, 400,000 in the United States, and 10,000 people in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, multiple sclerosis is often diagnosed in individuals aged 20-50 and is the most common neurological disease leading to disability in young adults; and

WHEREAS, multiple sclerosis not only afflicts the individual but also affects the person's family, friends, and community; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's regional chapters of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society provide programs and services to address the challenges faced by Virginians affected by multiple sclerosis; and

WHEREAS, Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week will be observed March 8-14, 2010, by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and it is fitting and appropriate that the Commonwealth participate in the national effort to inform citizens about the disease; its diagnosis, treatment, and management; the need for research; and advances leading to a cure; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly designate the second week in March, in 2010 and in each succeeding year, as Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit a copy of this resolution to Ashley Chapman, Virginia Statewide Advocacy Manager of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, requesting that she further disseminate copies of this resolution to her constituents and regional chapters of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in Virginia, so that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates post the designation of this week on the General Assembly's website.