



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, multiple sclerosis (MS) is a chronic, unpredictable disease in which myelin, the protective insulation surrounding nerve fibers, is damaged and replaced by scars of hardened sclerotic tissue, the result of which is interference with the transmission of nerve signals; and

WHEREAS, common symptoms of MS include fatigue, weakness, spasticity, balance problems, bladder and bowel problems, numbness, vision loss, tremors and depression, although not all symptoms affect all MS patients, and the course of the disease varies greatly from person to person; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that between 350,000 and 500,000 people in the United States have been diagnosed with MS, and that more than two million individuals live with the disease worldwide; and

WHEREAS, MS is more common in women than in men, and is most commonly diagnosed in individuals between the ages of 20 and 50, but it can develop in young children, teens and older adults; and

WHEREAS, the exact cause of MS is still unknown, but researchers believe that a combination of factors may be involved and are studying immunologic reactions, viral or other infectious agents, and environmental and genetic factors among the possible causes; and

WHEREAS, although most individuals with MS have a normal or near-normal life expectancy, many individuals with MS require mobility aids because of fatigue, weakness or balance problems, or to assist with conserving energy; and

WHEREAS, even though there is no cure for MS, many therapeutic and technological advances now help individuals manage their symptoms, and medications can slow the underlying course of MS; and

WHEREAS, MS Education and Awareness Month is an effort to raise the public's awareness of MS, promote an understanding of the scope of the disease and assist those with MS in making educated decisions about their health care; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey recognizes the importance of understanding MS, including its causes and health effects, and of supporting and encouraging education programs and research to develop effective therapies and find a cure;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRIS CHRISTIE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

MARCH 2013

AS

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS EDUCATION AND AWARENESS MONTH

in New Jersey and encourage public officials and residents to honor this observance with appropriate activities and programs.

GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this eighteenth day of March in the year two thousand thirteen, the two hundred thirty-seventh year of the Independence of the United States.



Kim Guadagno
Lt. GOVERNOR

Chris Christie
GOVERNOR