

A bill (S. 2263) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to institute a Federal fuels tax holiday.

Mr. BROWNBACk. I now ask for the second reading, and I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

PUBLIC AWARENESS OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

Mr. BROWNBACk. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 97 introduced earlier today by Senator REED.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 97) expressing the support of Congress for activities to increase public awareness on multiple sclerosis.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, this resolution expresses the support of Congress for activities that will raise public awareness of multiple sclerosis.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a chronic, often disabling disease of the central nervous system. Symptoms can range from mild numbness in the limbs to paralysis and blindness. Most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 40, but the unpredictable physical and emotional effects of this debilitating disease can be lifelong. The progress, severity and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted, but advances in research and treatment are giving hope to those affected by the disease. It is known that MS afflicts twice as many women as men, however, once an individual is diagnosed with MS, their symptoms can be effectively managed and complications avoided through regular medical care.

Nationally, it is estimated that between 250,000 and 350,000 individuals suffer from MS, which is approximately 1 out of every 1,000 people. In Rhode Island, the rate is slightly higher—1.5 out of every 1,000. Over 3,000 individuals and their families in my home state are affected by this disease.

It is my hope that through this resolution we can bring greater attention to the devastating effects of this disease, while also building support for additional research. It is through more intensive research efforts by agencies such as the National Institutes of Health that we will better understand some of the potential causes of this disease, as well as develop more effective methods of treatment, and maybe someday prevention. Indeed, it is only

with greater resources that we can build public awareness about MS and enhance our scientific understanding of this mysterious illness.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society as well as the Rhode Island Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society for their encouragement and assistance in developing this important Resolution. It is through their grassroots efforts that individuals suffering from MS can get information about their disease as well as learn more about resources available in their communities, research being conducted, and support services for family members. Their support is essential to those who have been afflicted with MS, and I hope that through this resolution the Congress can assist in bolstering these important efforts.

In closing, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this important resolution to raise awareness and encourage people to become more educated about this debilitating disease.

Mr. BROWNBACk. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 97) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 97

Whereas multiple sclerosis is a chronic and often disabling disease of the central nervous system which often first appears in people between the ages of 20 and 40, with lifelong physical and emotional effects;

Whereas multiple sclerosis is twice as common in women as in men;

Whereas an estimated 250,000 to 350,000 individuals suffer from multiple sclerosis nationally;

Whereas symptoms of multiple sclerosis can be mild, such as numbness in the limbs, or severe, such as paralysis or loss of vision;

Whereas the progress, severity, and specific symptoms of multiple sclerosis in any one person cannot yet be predicted;

Whereas the annual cost to each affected individual averages \$34,000, and the total cost can exceed \$2,000,000 over an individual's lifetime;

Whereas the annual cost of treating all people who suffer from multiple sclerosis in the United States is nearly \$9,000,000,000;

Whereas the cause of multiple sclerosis remains unknown, but genetic factors are believed to play a role in determining a person's risk for developing multiple sclerosis;

Whereas many of the symptoms of multiple sclerosis can be treated with medications and rehabilitative therapy;

Whereas new treatments exist that can slow the course of the disease, and reduce its severity;

Whereas medical experts recommend that all people newly diagnosed with relapse-remitting multiple sclerosis begin disease-modifying therapy;

Whereas finding the genes responsible for susceptibility to multiple sclerosis may lead

to the development of new and more effective ways to treat the disease;

Whereas increased funding for the National Institutes of Health would provide the opportunity for research and the creation of programs to increase awareness, prevention, and education; and

Whereas Congress as an institution, and Members of Congress as individuals, are in unique positions to help raise public awareness about the detection and treatment of multiple sclerosis and to support the fight against multiple sclerosis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) all Americans should take an active role in the fight to end the devastating effects of multiple sclerosis on individuals, their families, and the economy;

(2) the role played by national and community organizations and health care professionals in promoting the importance of continued funding for research, and in providing information about and access to the best medical treatment and support services for people with multiple sclerosis should be recognized and applauded; and

(3) the Federal Government has a responsibility to—

(A) continue to fund research so that the causes of, and improved treatment for, multiple sclerosis may be discovered;

(B) continue to consider ways to improve access to, and the quality of, health care services for people with multiple sclerosis;

(C) endeavor to raise public awareness about the symptoms of multiple sclerosis; and

(D) endeavor to raise health professional's awareness about diagnosis of multiple sclerosis and the best course of treatment for people with the disease.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2000

Mr. BROWNBACk. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 9:45 a.m. on Wednesday, March 22. I further ask unanimous consent that on Wednesday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate immediately begin the final debate on H.R. 5, the Social Security earnings legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. BROWNBACk. For the information of all Senators, at 9:45 a.m., the Senate will immediately begin the final 15 minutes of debate on the Social Security earnings bill. Following the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate will proceed to vote on final passage of the bill. Therefore, Senators may expect the first vote for tomorrow at approximately 10 a.m.

Following the vote, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate begin a period of morning business with Senators