



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

MS EDUCATION AND AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is a chronic, progressive, disabling neurological disease of unknown origin that affects the central nervous system; and

WHEREAS, MS has been diagnosed in more than 400,000 people nationwide and over 2,300 Floridians are affected by MS; and

WHEREAS, the effects of MS, sometimes called an "invisible disease," may not be obvious, as common symptoms include severe fatigue, weakness, spasticity, balance problems, numbness, vision loss, tremors and depression; and

WHEREAS, the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation (MSF) strives to heighten public awareness of MS throughout the month of March in order to elicit support, caring and understanding for those diagnosed with the illness; and

WHEREAS, no cure for MS has been found as of today, though much progress has been made in treating symptoms and slowing the progression of disability through the development of new drug therapies; and

WHEREAS, many citizens affected by MS need daily support as research continues in search of a cure, and the MSF provides this assistance across the country through education, support programs and services; and

WHEREAS, continued and increased awareness of MS and the efforts and achievements of those diagnosed and others working to ease the devastating effects of the disease must be attained; and

WHEREAS, it is the interest of the State of Florida to recognize these efforts by promoting awareness and fostering a greater understanding of MS;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing March 2008 as *MS Education and Awareness Month*.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 19th day of February, in the year two thousand eight.




Governor