State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Multiple Sclerosis 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 has no known cure; and

WHEREAS, multiple sclerosis has been diagnosed in more than 400,000 people nationwide, whose family, friends and employers are affected as well; and

WHEREAS, people with multiple sclerosis are often misunderstood because many of their symptoms, including fatigue, weakness, cognition difficulties, vision loss, and depression, are "invisible"; and

WHEREAS, with early drug therapy and proper healthcare management disease progression can be slowed, allowing people with multiple sclerosis to live active, rewarding and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, increased public education and awareness about multiple sclerosis not only helps people who must cope with the disease, but also stimulates funds for vital research aimed at developing more disease-modifying treatments and ultimately a cure; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation is, in part, to improve the quality of life of people with multiple sclerosis nationwide through educational programs and materials, grant programs, support groups, and other services; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Rhode Islanders to promote awareness of multiple sclerosis and a better understanding of people who live with the disease; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim March 2011, Multiple Sclerosis Education and Awareness Month in Rhode Island and encourage all of its citizens to join me in recognizing the importance of this month.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, this 13th day of February, 2012

Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor

A. Ralph Mollis
Secretary of State