

News

Washington First to Proclaim May 2010 As MCS Awareness and Education Month

Washington Governor Christine Gregoire leads the nation, being the first to declare May 2010 as Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Month in the state of Washington.

“MCS is a chronic condition for which there is no known cure,” says Gregoire on the proclamation. “MCS can result in major financial, employment, housing,

health, and social consequences for people who have this disability.”

It is estimated that at least 45 million people in the US report sensitivity to various chemicals.

Annual expenditures for healthcare and lost productivity due to MCS are estimated at \$71.8 billion dollars per year. Indoor and outdoor environmental exposures which can trigger disabling reactions include perfumes and fragrances, cleaning solutions, scented laundry products, pesticides, herbicides, paint and building materials, gasoline and petroleum based products, and artificial flavors, colors, and preservatives.

With a plan that includes avoidance and control of environmental triggers, many people with MCS can lead normal, healthy, and active lives.

“Reasonable accommodations and raising awareness of MCS can provide opportunities for people with this disability to enjoy access to work, school, public facilities, and other settings where they can continue to contribute their professional skills, ideas, creativity, abilities, and knowledge,” says Gregoire on the proclamation.

Thank you for recognizing this important observance Governor Gregoire!

