

Mike Volpe Report

In July of 2017 I joined a group of people in Oregon to become a District Activist Leader for Representative DeFazio's district. This group of advocates are more interested in working with federal legislators. I decided to take this position due to the fact that I had never advocated with federal legislators and felt that this would be a great opportunity for me. My first responsibility was to organize a visit with Representative DeFazio in Eugene. I arranged for this visit to occur on August 8th at 1pm. Dale Turner who is an experienced advocate with federal legislators agreed to accompany me to my first visit to the legislator's office, since I was representing the MS Society during this visit. The main goals of the visit were to get information to the aides of Representative DeFazio, express the MS Society's concern about the rapid rise in cost of many of the prescription drugs that alleviate symptoms of MS, express our concern about the repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act and talk about the importance of Long Term Services and Supports to people with MS. The aides and Representative DeFazio expressed agreement with all of our points. This appointment was a great opportunity for me to learn about advocating on a different level. I also had the opportunity to observe the actions of a very experienced advocate.