

Date of Hearing: March 11, 2024

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES  
Blanca Pacheco, Chair  
HR 71 (Mike Fong) – As Introduced February 15, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Multiple System Atrophy Awareness Month.

**SUMMARY:** Declares the month of March 2024 as Multiple System Atrophy Awareness Month. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Multiple system atrophy (MSA) is a rare and progressive neurodegenerative disorder characterized by a combination of symptoms that affect both the autonomic nervous system and movement.
- 2) According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, MSA may affect between 15,000 and 50,000 Americans, including men and women of all races.
- 3) Symptoms, including problems with heart rate, progressive loss of motor function, and difficulties with balance, coordination, gait, bladder and bowel control, speech, swallowing, and breathing, advance rapidly over the course of 5 to 10 years once symptoms initially appear.
- 4) While there are medications that treat MSA symptoms, researchers continue to search for medications with fewer side effects as well as methods to better manage the disease until a cure is found.
- 5) A multidisciplinary approach to MSA care includes physical, psychological, and financial support for patients, caregivers, support groups, and MSA research foundations.
- 6) The worldwide MSA community has designated March as Multiple System Atrophy Awareness Month to increase awareness of the devastating effects of MSA.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** None

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

None on file

**Opposition**

None on file

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