

Date of Hearing: June 22, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
ACR 125 (Alanis) – As Introduced January 20, 2026

SUBJECT: Chiari Malformation Awareness Month.

SUMMARY: Declares September 2026 as Chiari Malformation Awareness Month. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Chiari malformation is a serious neurological disorder affecting more than 300,000 people in the United States. It was first identified by Austrian pathologist Professor Hans Chiari in the 1890s and categorized into four types, in order of severity.
- 2) Chiari malformation is a congenital malformation in which the bottom of the brain, known as the cerebellum, is crowded in the skull cavity and forces the lower tips of the cerebellar hemispheres, or tonsils, into the hole in the bottom of the skull, or foramen magnum.
- 3) Chiari malformations are defects in the cerebellum, the part of the brain that controls balance, and this creates pressure on the cerebellum and brain stem and may block the normal flow of cerebral spinal fluid to and from the brain.
- 4) Symptoms usually appear during adolescence or early adulthood and can include severe head and neck pain, vertigo, muscle weakness, balance problems, blurred or double vision, difficulty swallowing, and sleep apnea.
- 5) Individuals who have Chiari malformation may often have related conditions, such as hydrocephalus, spina bifida, syringomyelia, tethered spinal cord syndrome, and spinal curvature.
- 6) The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke within the National Institutes of Health is conducting research to find alternative surgical options and to identify the cause of Chiari malformations to create improved treatment and prevention plans.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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