

Rep. Sarah Roberts offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 31.

A resolution to declare March 2015 as Multiple System Atrophy Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Multiple system atrophy is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder that affects the autonomic functions of the body; and

Whereas, Multiple system atrophy is caused by degeneration or atrophy of nerve cells in a part of the brain, which can result in problems with movement, balance, and autonomic functions of the body; and

Whereas, The symptoms of this rapidly advancing disease can occur in any combination, from loss of balance and coordination, fainting due to low blood pressure, swallowing difficulties, breathing problems, and rigidity and tremors similar to Parkinson's Disease or Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS); and

Whereas, Multiple system atrophy generally affects middle-aged men and women and advances rapidly with the progressive loss of motor skills and eventually confinement to bed and death; and

Whereas, Recent research suggests that five per 100,000 people are affected by the disease; and

Whereas, People rarely live past 15 years with multiple system atrophy; and

Whereas, There is no remission from multiple system atrophy and currently no cure; and

Whereas, The current lack of awareness of multiple system atrophy leads to misdiagnosis and mistreatment; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare March 2015 as Multiple System Atrophy Awareness Month in the state of Michigan. We urge increased public awareness of this progressive neurodegenerative disorder that affects the autonomic functions of the body.