



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**MULTIPLE SYSTEM ATROPHY AWARENESS MONTH**

**2018**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, Multiple System Atrophy (MSA) is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder characterized by a combination of symptoms that affect both the autonomic nervous system and movement; the symptoms reflect the progressive loss of function and death of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord; and

**WHEREAS**, MSA is a rare disease, affecting potentially 15,000 to 50,000 Americans, including men and women of all racial groups; symptoms tend to appear in a person's 50s and advance rapidly over the course of 5 to 10 years, with progressive loss of motor function and eventual confinement to bed; and

**WHEREAS**, symptoms include problems with gait, balance, and muscle coordination; difficulty swallowing and breathing; abnormal eye movements and speech; and control issues with bladder and bowel functions; and

**WHEREAS**, a multidisciplinary approach to MSA care includes physical, psychological, and financial support for patients and caregivers, including support groups; and

**WHEREAS**, while there are some medications that treat the symptoms of MSA and clinical trials for the development of improved treatment, much more research is needed for better management of the disease and, ultimately, a cure; and

**WHEREAS**, increased education and awareness are critical to ensure early, accurate diagnoses and immediate treatment of MSA, as well as to raise funds for research to develop treatment and a cure; and

**WHEREAS**, March has been proclaimed as Multiple System Atrophy Awareness Month among the worldwide MSA community to garner awareness and support for those individuals and their families dealing with the devastating effects of this disorder;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim March, 2018, as "MULTIPLE SYSTEM ATROPHY AWARENESS MONTH" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



  
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Roy Cooper  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this second day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.