SENATE RESOLUTION

8618

By Senator Liias

WHEREAS, Multiple System Atrophy, also known as MSA, is a rare degenerative and terminal neurological disease, which has a distinctive impact on each patient; and

WHEREAS, According to the Multiple System Atrophy Coalition, MSA affects approximately 50,000 Americans; and

WHEREAS, It has been estimated that as many as 35,000 people with MSA have been misdiagnosed with other neurodegenerative disorders; and

WHEREAS, Symptoms include problems with balance, coordination, gait, bladder and bowel functions, speech, swallowing, and breathing; and

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

WHEREAS, There are some medications that treat the symptoms and some 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 needed to assist in accurately diagnosing MSA and to raise funds for research for treatments with fewer side effects and ultimately a cure; and

WHEREAS, March has been proclaimed as Multiple System Atrophy Awareness Month among the MSA worldwide community in dealing with the devastating effects of MSA;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate support the observation of March as Multiple System Atrophy Awareness Month to call attention to the pressing need to increase public awareness of this progressive neurodegenerative disorder and encourage further research into treatments and a cure for this terrible disease.