

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

March 3, 2026

**Proclaiming March as Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month**

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is an unpredictable, chronic disease of the central nervous system, affecting the brain, spinal cord, and optic nerves. MS disrupts the flow of information within the brain and between the brain and the rest of the body, impairing the body’s ability to move, think, and function, and often results in a range of physical, cognitive, and emotional challenges. Symptoms of MS differ from person to person and may range from mild to severe. Common symptoms include fatigue, memory and concentration difficulties, mood changes, mobility limitations, numbness, pain, tingling sensations, and vision impairment.

Because symptoms can fluctuate and may not always be visible, individuals living with MS may experience unique challenges in accessing public services, workplaces, transportation, and community spaces. In addition, the course of the disease varies widely, and symptoms and impact can change from day to day and over the course of an individual’s lifetime. Furthermore, MS can affect different areas of the body depending on where inflammation and neurological damage occur at a given time, making symptoms unpredictable, and in many cases, difficult to diagnose due to overlap with other medical conditions. These fluctuating and episodic symptoms underscore the

MOTION

Mitchell \_\_\_\_\_

Horvath \_\_\_\_\_

Hahn \_\_\_\_\_

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importance of flexible, inclusive, and accessible systems that accommodate both visible and non-visible disabilities.

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS) reports that more than one million people in the United States are currently living with MS, and this number is expected to increase, with an estimated 800 new cases diagnosed each month. This includes approximately 11,307 residents in Los Angeles County. However, because MS is not a reportable disease, no single official prevalence count exists. Living with MS can significantly impact an individual's independence and quality of life, as well as the well-being of family members, caregivers, and loved ones. Individuals with MS may face barriers related to employment, healthcare access, mobility, and long-term support services, highlighting the need for disability access policies that promote equity, reasonable accommodation, and full participation in community life.

Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month is recognized nationally in March of every year to increase public understanding of MS, reduce stigma surrounding both visible and invisible disabilities, and promote access to resources and services. During this month, communities reaffirm their commitment to disability access, inclusion, and support for residents living with MS.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Proclaim March as Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month in Los Angeles County, and ask County employees to wear an orange ribbon on March 19, 2026, in honor of individuals living with MS and in recognition of the family members,

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advocates, and activists who come together each March to advocate for the MS community; and

2. Direct the Director of the Department of Aging and Disabilities to work with the Commission on Disabilities to host a resource webinar highlighting programs, services, and accessibility supports available in Los Angeles County for individuals living with Multiple Sclerosis.

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