



WHEREAS, Mast Cell Activation Syndrome (MCAS) is a chronic, multisystem medical condition in which mast cells release excessive amounts of chemical mediators, causing symptoms that may affect the skin, gastrointestinal tract, cardiovascular system, respiratory system, and nervous system; and,

WHEREAS, individuals living with MCAS often face significant challenges in obtaining timely diagnoses and appropriate treatment due to limited awareness, the complexity of symptoms, and the evolving nature of scientific understanding surrounding the condition; and,

WHEREAS, delayed diagnosis and inadequate recognition of MCAS can contribute to prolonged suffering, reduced quality of life, increased healthcare utilization, and significant physical, emotional, and financial burdens for patients and their families; and,

WHEREAS, healthcare professionals, researchers, patient advocates, and nonprofit organizations throughout Illinois are working to advance education, improve patient outcomes, promote research, and increase public understanding of mast cell diseases and related disorders; and,

WHEREAS, increasing awareness of MCAS can encourage earlier recognition, foster greater support for affected individuals and families, and promote continued scientific research into the causes, diagnosis, and treatment of this often-overlooked condition; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois recognizes the importance of supporting individuals living with rare and underrecognized medical conditions and acknowledges the contributions of patients, caregivers, advocates, researchers, and healthcare professionals working to improve their lives; and,

WHEREAS, observances such as Mast Cell Activation Syndrome Awareness Month provide an opportunity to increase public understanding, reduce stigma surrounding invisible illnesses, encourage collaboration among healthcare providers and researchers, and recognize the resilience of individuals and families affected by MCAS;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim October 1, 2026 as **Mast Cell Disease Awareness Day** in Illinois and encourage all residents to learn more about MCAS and support efforts to improve awareness, education, research, and patient care throughout our state.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this EIGHTEENTH *day of* MONTH *, in*
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY-SIX *, and of the State of Illinois,*
two hundred and SEVENTH *.*

Alexi Giannouh
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR