

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 104 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY FARNESE, ORIE, STACK, KASUNIC, TARTAGLIONE, EARLL, M. WHITE, RAFFERTY, FONTANA, COSTA, SCARNATI, GREENLEAF, TOMLINSON, ERICKSON, BROWNE, HUGHES, PIPPY, YAW, BOSCOLA, PILEGGI, FERLO, SCHWANK, FOLMER, WASHINGTON, KITCHEN, BREWSTER, BRUBAKER AND LEACH, MAY 2, 2011

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MAY 2, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2011 as "Amyotrophic Lateral
2 Sclerosis Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and memorializing
3 the President and the Congress of the United States to enact
4 legislation to provide additional funding for research in
5 order to find a treatment and cure for the disease.

6 WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is better known
7 as Lou Gehrig's Disease; and

8 WHEREAS, ALS is a fatal neurodegenerative disease
9 characterized by degeneration of cell bodies of the upper and
10 lower motor neurons in the gray matter of the anterior horn of
11 the spinal cord; and

12 WHEREAS, The initial symptom of ALS is weakness of the
13 skeletal muscles, especially those of the extremities; and

14 WHEREAS, As ALS progresses, the patient experiences
15 difficulty in swallowing, talking and breathing; and

16 WHEREAS, ALS eventually causes muscles to atrophy, and the
17 patient becomes a functional quadriplegic; and

18 WHEREAS, ALS does not affect a patient's mental capacity, so

1 that the patient remains alert and aware of his or her loss of
2 motor functions and the inevitable outcome of continued
3 deterioration and death; and

4 WHEREAS, The Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War
5 Veterans' Illnesses, created by Congress, stated in its most
6 recent report that "The most serious condition reported to
7 affect Gulf War veterans at a higher than expected rate is
8 amyotrophic lateral sclerosis,* * *"; and

9 WHEREAS, An increased number of military veterans, regardless
10 of branch of service and what war they were involved in, are at
11 greater risk for being diagnosed with this disease than those
12 who did not serve in the military, resulting in the creation of
13 the National Registry of Veterans with ALS to track this
14 information; and

15 WHEREAS, ALS occurs in adulthood, most commonly between the
16 ages of 40 and 70 years of age, with the peak age about 55 years
17 of age, and affects men two or three times more often than
18 women; and

19 WHEREAS, Annually, more than 5,500 new ALS patients are
20 diagnosed throughout the nation; and

21 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania, there are currently 1,200
22 individuals that have been formally diagnosed with ALS; and

23 WHEREAS, On average, the ALS Association reported in 2009
24 that patients diagnosed with ALS only survive two to five years
25 from the time of diagnosis; and

26 WHEREAS, ALS has no known cause, prevention or cure; and

27 WHEREAS, "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month"
28 increases the public's awareness of ALS patients' circumstances
29 and acknowledges the terrible impact this disease has not only
30 on the patient but on his or her family as well and recognizes

1 the research being done to eradicate this horrible disease;
2 therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Senate of Pennsylvania designate the month
4 of May 2011 as "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month"
5 in Pennsylvania; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
7 the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of
8 each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from
9 Pennsylvania showing our support for research and needed
10 services for patients living with this deadly disease.