
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 718 Session of
2004

INTRODUCED BY MANN, DeWEESE, WEBER, GRUCELA, BISHOP, HARHAI,
GINGRICH, PALLONE, BELARDI, LEDERER, B. SMITH, JAMES,
GODSHALL, GEIST, LESCOVITZ, CORRIGAN, O'BRIEN, STERN, GEORGE,
FABRIZIO, WATSON, T. STEVENSON, SHANER, COY, HENNESSEY,
PICKETT, McILHATTAN, ROSS, SCAVELLO, WALKO, FRANKEL,
PISTELLA, DeLUCA, MARKOSEK, PHILLIPS AND ROEBUCK,
MAY 10, 2004

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MAY 10, 2004

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of May 2004 as "Amyotrophic Lateral
2 Sclerosis Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania and urging the
3 President and Congress of the United States to enact
4 legislation to provide additional funding for research in
5 order to find a treatment and a cure for ALS.

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 lower motor
10 neurons in the gray matter of the anterior horns of the spinal
11 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

1 patient becomes a functional quadriplegic; and

2 WHEREAS, ALS does not affect a patient's mental capacity, so
3 a patient remains alert and aware of the loss of motor functions
4 and the inevitable outcome of continued deterioration and death;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, ALS occurs in adulthood, most commonly between the
7 ages of 40 and 70, with the peak age about 55, and affects men
8 two to three times more often than women; and

9 WHEREAS, More than 5,000 new ALS patients are diagnosed
10 annually; and

11 WHEREAS, On average, patients diagnosed with ALS survive two
12 to five years from the time of diagnosis; and

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

14 WHEREAS, "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Awareness
15 Month" will increase public awareness of ALS patients'
16 circumstances, acknowledge the terrible impact this disease has
17 on patients and families and recognize the research for
18 treatment and cure of ALS; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
20 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recognize the month of May 2004 as
21 "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Awareness Month" in
22 Pennsylvania; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the
24 President and Congress of the United States to enact legislation
25 to provide additional funding for ALS research; and be it
26 further

27 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
28 the President of the United States, to the Vice President of the
29 United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
30 to the members of Congress from Pennsylvania and to the United

1 States Secretary of Health and Human Services.