
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 126 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY FARNESE, MAY 23, 2017

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MAY 23, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2017 as "Amyotrophic Lateral
2 Sclerosis Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is better known
4 as Lou Gehrig's Disease; and

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

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

11 WHEREAS, As ALS progresses, the patient experiences
12 difficulty in swallowing, talking and breathing; and

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

15 WHEREAS, Patients with ALS typically remain alert and are
16 aware of their loss of motor functions and the inevitable
17 outcome of continued deterioration and death; and

18 WHEREAS, ALS affects military veterans at twice the rate of

1 the general population; and

2 WHEREAS, ALS occurs in adulthood, most commonly between 40
3 and 70 years of age, peaking at approximately 55 years of age,
4 and affects both men and women without bias; and

5 WHEREAS, Annually, more than 5,000 new ALS patients are
6 diagnosed throughout the nation; and

7 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania, there are currently more than 1,000
8 individuals who have been formally diagnosed with ALS; and

9 WHEREAS, The \$350,000 in State funding appropriated by the
10 General Assembly for ALS support services in the Supplement to
11 the General Appropriation Act of 2015 provided services to more
12 than 900 constituents and a substantial savings to the State
13 budget and taxpayers; and

14 WHEREAS, The ALS Association reports that on average,
15 patients diagnosed with ALS only survive two to five years from
16 the time of diagnosis; and

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

18 WHEREAS, "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month"
19 increases the public's awareness of ALS patients' circumstances
20 and acknowledges the negative impact this disease has on ALS
21 patients and their families and recognizes the research being
22 done to eradicate ALS; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of May 2017 as
24 "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania;
25 and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
27 the President of the United States and to the presiding officers
28 and members of the Pennsylvania Delegation in the Congress of
29 the United States.