
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 367 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY FARNESE, TEPLITZ, ERICKSON, KASUNIC, STACK,
FONTANA, WASHINGTON, FERLO, GREENLEAF, DINNIMAN, BREWSTER,
SCARNATI, MENSCH, BOSCOLA, HUGHES, VULAKOVICH, SMITH, BROWNE,
VANCE AND ALLOWAY, APRIL 29, 2014

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, APRIL 29, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2014 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 aware
16 of their loss of motor functions and the inevitable outcome of
17 continued deterioration and death; and

1 WHEREAS, ALS affects military veterans at twice the rate of
2 the general population; and

3 WHEREAS, ALS occurs in adulthood, most commonly between 40
4 and 70 years of age, with the peak age of about 55, and affects
5 both men and women without bias; and

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

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

10 WHEREAS, The \$350,000 in State funding the General Assembly
11 appropriated for ALS patient care in fiscal year 2013-2014
12 provided services to more than 900 constituents and provided a
13 substantial savings to the State budget and to taxpayers; and

14 WHEREAS, The ALS Association reported in 2009 that on
15 average, patients diagnosed with ALS only survive two to five
16 years from 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 terrible impact this disease has not only
21 on patients but on their families as well and recognizes the
22 research being done to eradicate this horrible disease;

23 therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the Senate of Pennsylvania designate the month
25 of May 2014 as "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month"
26 in Pennsylvania; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
28 the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of
29 each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from
30 Pennsylvania.