
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 368 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY FARNESE, TEPLITZ, FONTANA, DINNIMAN, SABATINA,
BREWSTER, GREENLEAF, EICHELBERGER, WHITE, BAKER, BROWNE,
HUTCHINSON AND COSTA, MAY 16, 2016

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MAY 16, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2016 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, peaking at approximately 55 years of age,
5 and affects 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 appropriated by the
11 General Assembly for ALS support services in the Supplement to
12 the General Appropriation Act of 2015 provided services to more
13 than 900 constituents and a substantial savings to the State
14 budget and taxpayers; and

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

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

19 WHEREAS, "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month"
20 increases the public's awareness of ALS patients' circumstances
21 and acknowledges the terrible impact this disease has not only
22 on the patients but on their families as well and recognizes the
23 research being done to eradicate this horrible disease;
24 therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
26 designate the month of May 2016 as "Amyotrophic Lateral
27 Sclerosis Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

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

1 the United States.