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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

MEMORANDUM

COMMITTEES

HEALTH COMMITTEE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
GAME & FISHERIES COMMITTEE

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Bryan Cutler

RE: May 2012 as ALS Awareness Month

In the near future I intend to introduce a resolution recognizing May 2012 as ALS Awareness in Pennsylvania.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), commonly referred to as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive, fatal neurodegenerative disease.

- ❖ It attacks nerve cells and pathways in the brain and spinal cord, ultimately resulting in a loss of voluntary muscle control, paralysis and death.
- ❖ The average life expectancy for people with ALS is two to five years from the time of diagnosis.
- ❖ Every day, an average of 15 people are diagnosed with ALS-more than 5,600 people each year. As many as 30,000 Americans are currently living with ALS.
- ❖ Moreover, only one drug, approved by the FDA in late 1995, currently is available to treat ALS, but provides limited benefits.
- ❖ Military veterans are at a 50% or greater risk of developing ALS than those who have no served in the military.
- ❖ There is no known cause of the disease, cure or means of prevention.

I hope that you will join me in bringing recognition to this devastating disease by co-sponsoring this resolution. To do so, contact my secretary Jennifer at jwilliam@pahousegop.com or 783-6424.

BC/jjw