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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 674 Session of  
2012

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INTRODUCED BY CUTLER, AUMENT, BAKER, BOBACK, BOYD, BRENNAN, BRIGGS, BROOKS, V. BROWN, CAUSER, CLYMER, CREIGHTON, DENLINGER, DIGIROLAMO, EVERETT, FABRIZIO, FLECK, GEORGE, GILLEN, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GRELL, GROVE, HAHN, HARHART, HEFFLEY, HELM, HENNESSEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, KAUFFMAN, KAVULICH, KILLION, KNOWLES, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MARSHALL, METZGAR, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MILLER, MILNE, MOUL, OBERLANDER, O'NEILL, PASHINSKI, PICKETT, PYLE, QUINN, READSHAW, ROCK, ROEBUCK, ROSS, SANTONI, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, K. SMITH, SONNEY, STERN, SWANGER, VEREB, VULAKOVICH AND WATSON, APRIL 16, 2012

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 16, 2012

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2012 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 lower motor  
7 neurons in the gray matter of the anterior horn of the spinal  
8 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

1 patient becomes a functional quadriplegic; and

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

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

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

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

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

15 WHEREAS, "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month"  
16 increases the public's awareness of ALS patients' circumstances  
17 and acknowledges the terrible impact this disease has not only  
18 on the patient but on his or her family as well and recognizes  
19 the research being done to eradicate this horrible disease;  
20 therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
22 month of May 2012 as "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness  
23 Month" in Pennsylvania.