

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 230 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY CUTLER, READSHAW, KORTZ, SOLOMON, BIZZARRO, PYLE, KAUFFMAN, HILL-EVANS, YOUNGBLOOD, MEHAFFIE, PICKETT, D. MILLER, FEE, HENNESSEY, SCHMITT, DIGIROLAMO, ROTHMAN, GLEIM, KINSEY, CAUSER, KNOWLES, GREINER, SCHLOSSBERG, RYAN, THOMAS, LONGIETTI, CALTAGIRONE, MILLARD, BOBACK, SCHLEGEL, CULVER, BARRAR, STAATS, PASHINSKI, VITALI, EVERETT, JOZWIAK, B. MILLER, HARKINS, HICKERNELL, FRITZ, SONNEY, ISAACSON, LEWIS, GABLER, BERNSTINE, BROWN, McNEILL, FREEMAN, IRVIN, WARREN, MACKENZIE, DEASY, OBERLANDER, SAYLOR, MENTZER, OWLETT, ZIMMERMAN, GILLESPIE, MURT, NEILSON, LAWRENCE, DeLUCA, HAHN, DUSH, CIRESI, SIMMONS, HERSHEY, MARKOSEK, MULLINS, POLINCHOCK, WEBSTER AND WHEELAND, APRIL 15, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 15, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2019 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

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

3 WHEREAS, ALS does not affect a patient's mental capacity,
4 leaving the patient alert and aware of their loss of motor
5 functions and the inevitable outcome of continued deterioration
6 and death; and

7 WHEREAS, ALS occurs in adulthood, most commonly between 40
8 and 70 years of age, with the greatest age for risk being
9 approximately 55 years of age; and

10 WHEREAS, ALS affects men two to three times more often than
11 women; and

12 WHEREAS, More than 5,000 new ALS patients are diagnosed
13 annually; and

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

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

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

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
23 month of May 2019 as "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness
24 Month" in Pennsylvania.