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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 738 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY CUTLER, HENNESSEY, KORTZ, LONGIETTI, ROTHMAN,  
KINSEY, RYAN, T. DAVIS, DONATUCCI, OBERLANDER, ZABEL,  
BERNSTINE, SCHMITT, HOHENSTEIN, McNEILL, JONES, OWLETT, FEE,  
MALONEY, SONNEY, DERMODY, VITALI, GREINER, POLINCHOCK,  
KAUFFMAN, SCHLOSSBERG, STAATS, BIZZARRO, MILLARD, NEILSON,  
YOUNGBLOOD, BROOKS, GLEIM, BURNS, PICKETT, MURT, HOWARD, KIM,  
BROWN, MACKENZIE, HILL-EVANS, BENNINGHOFF, WHEELAND, ECKER,  
SANCHEZ, HICKERNELL, MENTZER, KAUFER, READSHAW, B. MILLER,  
MOUL, DIAMOND, DEASY, CIRESI, EVERETT, SCHLEGEL CULVER,  
ROEBUCK, ROZZI, THOMAS AND O'MARA, FEBRUARY 24, 2020

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, FEBRUARY 24, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2020 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  
14 patient becomes a functional quadriplegic; and

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

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

8       WHEREAS, ALS affects men two to 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 acknowledges the terrible impact this disease has on the patient  
18 and their family and recognizes the research being done to  
19 eradicate this horrible disease; therefore be it

20       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
21 month of May 2020 as "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness  
22 Month" in Pennsylvania.