
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 419 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY CUTLER, MULLINS, FLICK, MARCELL, VENKAT, GREINER,
KHAN, GIRAL, BERNSTINE, CONKLIN, FEE, DEASY, SCHLOSSBERG,
BOROWSKI, MEHAFFIE, DONAHUE, SANCHEZ, T. DAVIS, MALAGARI,
PICKETT, GILLEN, RAPP, SCHMITT, STENDER, BANTA, CIRESI, MOUL,
KIM, DELLOSO, JOZWIAK, CAUSER AND ROWE, MAY 3, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MAY 3, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2024 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 ALS patient experiences
12 difficulty in swallowing, talking and breathing; and

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

15 WHEREAS, ALS does not affect the ALS patient's mental
16 capacity, leaving the patient alert and aware of the patient's

1 loss of motor functions and the inevitable outcome of continued
2 deterioration and death; and

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

6 WHEREAS, ALS is 20% more common among men than women; and

7 WHEREAS, More than 5,000 new ALS patients are diagnosed
8 annually; and

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

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

12 WHEREAS, "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month"
13 increases public awareness of ALS patients' circumstances,
14 acknowledges the terrible impact this disease has on ALS
15 patients' and their families and recognizes the research being
16 done to eradicate this horrible disease; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
18 month of May 2024 as "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness
19 Month" in Pennsylvania.