
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 145 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY FARNESE, TEPLITZ, WOZNIAK, TOMLINSON, SCARNATI,
WASHINGTON, STACK, GREENLEAF, KITCHEN, DINNIMAN, RAFFERTY,
ERICKSON, SMITH, COSTA, VULAKOVICH, HUGHES, SCHWANK, FONTANA,
FERLO, SOLOBAY, ALLOWAY, VANCE, TARTAGLIONE, KASUNIC,
BRUBAKER, HUTCHINSON, MENSCH AND PILEGGI, MAY 14, 2013

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MAY 14, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2013 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 upper and
7 lower motor neurons in the gray matter of the anterior horn of
8 the spinal 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

15 WHEREAS, ALS does not affect a patient's mental capacity, so
16 that the patient remains alert and aware of his or her loss of

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

3 WHEREAS, ALS affects military veterans at twice the rate of
4 the general population; and

5 WHEREAS, ALS occurs in adulthood, most commonly between the
6 ages of 40 and 70 years of age, with the peak age about 55 years
7 of age, and affects both men and women without bias; and

8 WHEREAS, Annually, more than 5,000 new ALS patients are
9 diagnosed throughout the nation; and

10 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania, there are currently more than 1,000
11 individuals who have been formally diagnosed with ALS; and

12 WHEREAS, The \$300,000 in State funding the General Assembly
13 provided for ALS patient care in Fiscal Year 2012-2013 provided
14 services to more than 900 constituents and provided a
15 substantial savings to the State budget and to taxpayers; and

16 WHEREAS, The ALS Association reported in 2009 that on
17 average, patients diagnosed with ALS only survive two to five
18 years from the time of diagnosis; and

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

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

26 RESOLVED, That the Senate of Pennsylvania designate the month
27 of May 2013 as "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month"
28 in Pennsylvania; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
30 the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of

1 each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from
2 Pennsylvania.