
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 234 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY CUTLER, CORBIN, WATSON, DRISCOLL, FEE, METZGAR, BRIGGS, FREEMAN, MATZIE, PEIFER, HENNESSEY, DEAN, MUSTIO, MURT, DUSH, SONNEY, BIZZARRO, RYAN, BAKER, D. COSTA, MACKENZIE, VITALI, LONGIETTI, DIGIROLAMO, R. BROWN, KINSEY, PICKETT, MILLARD, M. K. KELLER, V. BROWN, HICKERNELL, MENTZER, CAUSER, SANKEY, READSHAW, B. MILLER, GREINER, CHARLTON, SCHWEYER, MARSICO, KAVULICH, KNOWLES, CALTAGIRONE, KAUFFMAN, GROVE, A. HARRIS, O'NEILL, STAATS, GOODMAN, TOOIL, WHEELAND, WARD, HILL-EVANS, OBERLANDER, DeLUCA, MILNE, GILLEN, ZIMMERMAN AND BENNINGHOFF, APRIL 12, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 12, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2017 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,
3 leaving the patient alert and aware of their loss of motor
4 functions and the inevitable outcome of continued deterioration
5 and death; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
22 month of May 2017 as "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness
23 Month" in Pennsylvania.