
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 337 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY BARRAR, V. BROWN, COHEN, CORBIN, CUTLER, DeLUCA,
A. HARRIS, MARSICO, McGINNIS, MILLARD, MURT, PICKETT,
RAVENSTAHL, READSHAW, ROZZI, SAYLOR, THOMAS AND WATSON,
MAY 12, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MAY 12, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Strongly urging the members of Congress of the United States
2 from Pennsylvania to demand the United States Food and Drug
3 Administration immediately approve the drug GM604 to treat
4 Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis.

5 WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is better known
6 as Lou Gehrig's Disease; and

7 WHEREAS, ALS is a fatal neurodegenerative disease
8 characterized by degeneration of cell bodies of the upper and
9 lower motor neurons in the gray matter of the anterior horn of
10 the spinal cord; and

11 WHEREAS, The initial symptom of ALS is weakness of the
12 skeletal muscles, especially those of the extremities; and

13 WHEREAS, As ALS progresses, the patient experiences
14 difficulty in swallowing, talking and breathing; and

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

17 WHEREAS, Patients with ALS typically remain alert and aware
18 of their loss of motor functions and the inevitable outcome of

1 continued deterioration and death; and

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

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

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

9 WHEREAS, While ALS has no known cause, prevention or cure,
10 the drug GM604 has shown promise in trials of slowing down,
11 stopping and even reversing the effects of ALS; and

12 WHEREAS, GM604 has demonstrated safety in trials and has
13 demonstrated significant efficacy; and

14 WHEREAS, Because the majority of ALS patients face certain
15 paralysis and death, ALS presents a compelling case for GM604 to
16 receive immediate approval by the United States Food and Drug
17 Administration to treat the disease; therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
19 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania strongly urge the members of the
20 Congress of the United States from Pennsylvania to demand the
21 United States Food and Drug Administration immediately approve
22 the drug GM604 to treat Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis; and be it
23 further

24 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
25 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each
26 member of Congress from Pennsylvania.