
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 761 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY CUTLER, CORBIN, READSHAW, MIRABITO, HENNESSEY, DEAN, REGAN, VITALI, GRELL, TOEPEL, BISHOP, SONNEY, HICKERNELL, MICOZZIE, DIGIROLAMO, VEREB, KILLION, KAUFFMAN, BOBACK, MCGEEHAN, SCHLOSSBERG, BAKER, O'NEILL, YOUNGBLOOD, PICKETT, KORTZ, LONGIETTI, LUCAS, CALTAGIRONE, RAPP, KIM, DONATUCCI, MUSTIO, STERN, FEE, HAHN, MILLARD, MENTZER, AUMENT, MOLCHANY, DAY, THOMAS, GREINER, V. BROWN, MCNEILL, MACKENZIE, FARINA, GOODMAN, SWANGER, ROSS, COHEN, STEVENSON, D. COSTA, C. HARRIS, GINGRICH, SCHLEGEL CULVER, FREEMAN, MAJOR, M. K. KELLER, GIBBONS, BARRAR, MAHONEY, BROWNLEE, ROCK, GILLEN, PAINTER, MARSICO, HARHART, MURT, KINSEY, KNOWLES, ROEBUCK, WATSON, GROVE, FLECK, QUINN, DeLUCA, BENNINGHOFF, CLYMER, DENLINGER, MCCARTER, OBERLANDER AND MATZIE, APRIL 7, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 7, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2014 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

1 difficulty in swallowing, talking and breathing; and

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

4 WHEREAS, ALS does not affect a patient's mental capacity, so
5 that the patient remains alert and aware of his or her loss of
6 motor functions and the inevitable outcome of continued
7 deterioration and death; and

8 WHEREAS, ALS occurs in adulthood, most commonly between the
9 ages of 40 and 70 years of age, with the peak age about 55 years
10 of age, and affects men two or three times more often than
11 women; and

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

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

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

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

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
24 month of May 2014 as "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness
25 Month" in Pennsylvania.