SLS 13RS-348 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 14

BY SENATOR CORTEZ

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LEGIS POWERS/FUNCTIONS. Recognizes May 2013 as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month and memorialize Congress to enact legislation to provide additional funding for research in order to find a treatment and cure for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To recognize May 2013 as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month and to
3	memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to provide
4	additional funding for research in order to find a treatment and a cure for
5	amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.
6	WHEREAS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, is more commonly known as Lou
7	Gehrig's disease; and
8	WHEREAS, ALS is a fatal neurodegenerative disease characterized by degeneration
9	of cell bodies of the lower motor neurons in the gray matter of the anterior horns of the
10	spinal cord; and
11	WHEREAS, the initial symptom of ALS is usually weakness of the skeletal muscles,
12	especially those of the extremities; and
13	WHEREAS, as ALS progresses, the patient typically experiences difficulty in
14	swallowing, talking, and breathing; and
15	WHEREAS, ALS eventually causes muscles to atrophy and the patient becomes a
16	functional quadriplegic; and
17	WHEREAS, ALS does not affect mental capacity of the patient, such that the patient
18	remains alert and aware of surroundings and aware of the loss of motor functions and the

1	inevitable outcome of continued deterioration and death; and
2	WHEREAS, on average, patients diagnosed with ALS survive only two to five years
3	from the time of diagnosis; and
4	WHEREAS, despite the catastrophic consequences of a diagnosis of ALS, the disease
5	currently has no known cause, means of protection, or cure; and
6	WHEREAS, research indicates that military veterans are at a sixty percent greater
7	risk of developing ALS than those who have not served in the military; and
8	WHEREAS, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has promulgated
9	regulations to establish a presumption of service connection for ALS thereby presuming that
10	the development of ALS was incurred or aggravated by a veteran's service in the military;
11	and
12	WHEREAS, a national ALS registry, administered by the Centers for Disease
13	Control and Prevention, is currently identifying cases of ALS in the United States and may
14	become the largest ALS research project ever undertaken; and
15	WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month increases the
16	awareness of the circumstances of living with ALS and acknowledges the terrible impact this
17	disease has not only on the patient, but also on the family and community of anyone
18	receiving such a diagnosis; and
19	WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month also increases
20	awareness of research being done to eradicate this dire disease.
21	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
22	recognize May 2013 as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month.
23	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
24	memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to provide additional
25	funding for research in order to find a treatment and a cure for Amyotrophic Lateral
26	Sclerosis.
27	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted
28	to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of
29	Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States
30	Congress.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Dozier O'Brien.

DIGEST

Cortez SCR No. 14

Recognizes May 2013 as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month and memorializes Congress to enact legislation to provide additional funding for research in order to find a treatment and a cure for ALS.