

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 23

BY SENATOR N. GAUTREAUX

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the Congress of the United States to remove the financial eligibility requirements for patients stricken with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis to be approved to receive Medicaid.

WHEREAS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, is better known as "Lou Gehrig's disease"; and

WHEREAS, ALS is a fatal neurodegenerative disease characterized by degeneration of cell bodies of the lower motor neurons in the gray matter of the anterior horns of the spinal cord; and

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

WHEREAS, as ALS progresses, the patient experiences difficulty in swallowing, talking, and breathing; and

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

WHEREAS, research indicates that military veterans are at a fifty percent greater risk of developing ALS than those who have not served in the military; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, there can be significant costs for medical care, equipment, and home health caregiving later in the disease; and

WHEREAS, many families deplete their life savings attempting to pay for the care of their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, the financial burden associated with ALS for American families is enormous.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to remove the financial eligibility requirements for patients stricken with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis to be approved to receive Medicaid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES