

---

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 101 Session of  
2015

---

INTRODUCED BY FARNESE, TEPLITZ, HAYWOOD, AUMENT, GREENLEAF,  
EICHELBERGER, SCAVELLO, FONTANA, KITCHEN, BREWSTER, MENSCH,  
DINNIMAN, VANCE, PILEGGI, COSTA, RAFFERTY, WHITE, FOLMER,  
BLAKE, SMITH, VULAKOVICH, BOSCOLA, ALLOWAY, HUTCHINSON,  
BROOKS AND YUDICHAK, MAY 4, 2015

---

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MAY 4, 2015

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2015 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 upper and  
7 lower motor neurons in the gray matter of the anterior horn of  
8 the spinal 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  
14 patient becomes a functional quadriplegic; and

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

1 continued deterioration and death; and

2 WHEREAS, ALS affects military veterans at twice the rate of  
3 the general population; and

4 WHEREAS, ALS occurs in adulthood, most commonly between 40  
5 and 70 years of age, peaking at about 55 years of age, and  
6 affects both men and women without bias; and

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

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

11 WHEREAS, The \$350,000 in State funding the General Assembly  
12 appropriated for ALS support services in the General  
13 Appropriation Act of 2014 provided services to more than 900  
14 constituents and a substantial savings to the State budget and  
15 taxpayers; and

16 WHEREAS, The ALS Association reports that on average,  
17 patients diagnosed with ALS only survive two to five years from  
18 the time of diagnosis; and

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

20 WHEREAS, "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month"  
21 increases the public's awareness of ALS patients' circumstances  
22 and acknowledges the terrible impact this disease has not only  
23 on patients but on their families as well and recognizes the  
24 research being done to eradicate this horrible disease;  
25 therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the Senate of Pennsylvania designate the month  
27 of May 2015 as "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month"  
28 in Pennsylvania; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
30 the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of

1 each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from  
2 Pennsylvania.