
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 214 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY CUTLER, CORBIN, READSHAW, BISHOP, BAKER, COHEN, DEAN, BOBACK, M. K. KELLER, HEFFLEY, KNOWLES, GRELL, SCHLOSSBERG, GREINER, O'NEILL, MILLARD, CONKLIN, SCHWEYER, LONGIETTI, DIGIROLAMO, MACKENZIE, KIM, VITALI, DUSH, SONNEY, HICKERNELL, CAUSER, KILLION, METZGAR, BARRAR, HAHN, CALTAGIRONE, KAUFFMAN, KOTIK, FREEMAN, KINSEY, PETRI, HARHART, MCGINNIS, A. HARRIS, MARSHALL, D. COSTA, MENTZER, GABLER, MARSICO, FARINA, GROVE, MURT, WHEELAND, ROSS, BROWNLEE, OBERLANDER, MATZIE, PICKETT, SANKEY, DEASY, HARHAI, MAJOR, GOODMAN, DONATUCCI, FEE, MCCARTER, MAHONEY, BENNINGHOFF, GIBBONS, PEIFER, GILLEN, ROZZI, WATSON, FARRY AND V. BROWN, APRIL 8, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 8, 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 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
12 difficulty in swallowing, talking and breathing; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
23 month of May 2015 as "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness
24 Month" in Pennsylvania.