

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 116

BY SENATORS ALLAIN, COUSSAN AND STINE

A RESOLUTION

To designate the month of May as ALS Awareness Month in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), known by many as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive fatal neurodegenerative disease in which a person's brain loses connection with the muscles, slowly taking away the person's ability to walk, talk, eat, and eventually breathe; and

WHEREAS, every 90 minutes someone is diagnosed with ALS and someone passes away from ALS. On average, patients diagnosed with ALS survive only two to five years from the time of diagnosis; ALS has no cure; and

WHEREAS, people who have served in the military are more likely to develop ALS than those with no history of military service; and

WHEREAS, securing access to new therapies, durable medical equipment, and communication technologies is of vital importance to people living with ALS; clinical trials play a pivotal role in evaluating new treatments, enhancing quality of life, and fostering assistive technologies for those living with ALS; and

WHEREAS, the summer of 2024 will be the 10th anniversary of the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge that became a global phenomenon; this anniversary can be celebrated through a renewed commitment to galvanize public awareness and support funding leading to significant investments in ALS research; and

WHEREAS, the ALS Association, as the largest philanthropic funder of ALS research globally, has committed over \$154 million to support more than 550 projects across the United States and 18 other countries; and

WHEREAS, the ALS Association remains committed to accelerating the pace of discovery, fueled by the hope that one day, ALS will be a livable disease for everyone, everywhere, until a cure is found; and

WHEREAS, ALS Awareness Month increases the public's awareness of people with ALS's dire circumstances and acknowledges the terrible impact this disease has, not only on the person but on his or her family and the community, and recognizes the research being done to eradicate this debilitating disease.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate the month of May as ALS Awareness Month in Louisiana and does hereby encourage all Louisianians to join in supporting ALS research, advocating for increased funding, and standing in solidarity with those affected by this relentless disease.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE