



HR1114

LRB098 21346 GRL 59626 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) is a
3 devastating progressive neurodegenerative disease which
4 destroys the ability to walk, speak, eat, and breathe; ALS is
5 sometimes referred to as Lou Gehrig's disease, named after Lou
6 Gehrig, a famous baseball first basemen, whose career was
7 stopped in 1939 when he developed ALS at the age of 36; and

8 WHEREAS, ALS affects the body by attacking nerve cells of
9 the brain and spinal cord; typical symptoms of ALS include the
10 inability to walk, speak, eat, and even breathe; paralysis can
11 also develop; after the onset of this disease, fatality usually
12 occurs within 2 to 5 years; and

13 WHEREAS, Every day, an average of 15 people are newly
14 diagnosed with ALS - more than 5,600 people per year; as many
15 as 30,000 Americans may currently be affected by ALS; annually,
16 ALS is responsible for two deaths per 100,000 people; ALS
17 typically affects people over the age of 40, including those
18 who previously enjoyed excellent health in the prime of their
19 lives; ALS is indiscriminate in the types of people who will be
20 affected by it; and

21 WHEREAS, At present, there is no known treatment or cure
22 for ALS; if a cure or greater understanding of ALS is achieved,

1 then it is likely that this will benefit research into related
2 conditions like Parkinson's, Huntington's, and Alzheimer's
3 disease; and

4 WHEREAS, Established in 2008, 'ALS Across America' aims to
5 raise awareness about ALS by sharing with the media and public
6 the experiences that people throughout the United States have
7 with ALS; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
10 we designate the month of May 2014 as ALS Awareness Month in
11 the State of Illinois; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That we urge the citizens of the State of
13 Illinois to become more aware of the plight of people with this
14 serious disease, support those with this condition, and help to
15 further research into finding a cure.