



HR0609

LRB104 19159 LAW 32604 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, A greater awareness of fatal diseases that
3 continue to plague our population is needed; and

4 WHEREAS, Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known
5 as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a devastating and fatal
6 neurodegenerative condition in which a person's brain loses
7 connection with the muscles due to the destruction of motor
8 neurons; and

9 WHEREAS, The destruction of motor neurons that ALS causes
10 leads to complete paralysis and, in most cases, death within
11 five years of diagnosis; and

12 WHEREAS, Though their minds are unaffected, people living
13 with ALS lose the ability to walk, talk, eat, and eventually
14 breathe; they are confined to a fate where, as their
15 independence fades, they must rely entirely on caregivers to
16 provide round-the-clock aid as the disease reaches its more
17 advanced stages; and

18 WHEREAS, ALS currently has no known cure, and the exact
19 causes are unknown; and

WHEREAS, Military veterans are disproportionately affected

1 by ALS, and multiple studies show that they are more likely to
2 develop and die from the disease than the general population;
3 and

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

10 WHEREAS, To truly confront ALS, awareness must be raised,
11 and policies should reflect the urgent needs of those living
12 with this disease as increased advocacy and legislative
13 support are critical to advancing research, easing the burden
14 on families, and ultimately finding a cure; and

15 WHEREAS, Recognizing ALS Awareness Month provides an
16 opportunity to increase public awareness of the dire
17 circumstances of people living with ALS, acknowledge the
18 terrible impact this disease has on those individuals and
19 their families, and support research to eradicate this
20 disease; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
22 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we declare May 2026 as ALS Awareness Month in the State of
2 Illinois, and we call upon all Illinoisans to join in
3 supporting amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) research and
4 advocating for increased funding and to stand in solidarity
5 with those affected by this relentless disease; and be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That we express our support for the ALS
8 community as they seek to increase awareness, prioritize
9 research funding, and secure additional caregiving support.