

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 52

BY SENATOR CORTEZ

LEGIS POWERS/FUNCTIONS. Recognizes May 2014 as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month and memorializes Congress to enact legislation to provide additional funding for research in order to find a treatment and cure for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize May 2014 as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month and to memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to provide additional funding for research in order to find a treatment and cure for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

WHEREAS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, is more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease; and

WHEREAS, ALS is a fatal neurodegenerative disease characterized by degeneration of cell bodies of the lower motor neurons in the gray matter of the anterior horns of the spinal cord; and

WHEREAS, the initial symptom of ALS is usually weakness of the skeletal muscles, especially those of the extremities; and

WHEREAS, as ALS progresses, the patient typically experiences difficulty in swallowing, talking, and breathing; and

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

WHEREAS, ALS does not affect mental capacity of the patient, such that the patient remains alert and aware of surroundings and aware of the loss of motor functions and the

1 inevitable outcome of continued deterioration and death; and

2 WHEREAS, on average, patients diagnosed with ALS survive only two to five years  
3 from the time of diagnosis; and

4 WHEREAS, despite the catastrophic consequences of a diagnosis of ALS, the disease  
5 currently has no known cause, means of protection, or cure; and

6 WHEREAS, research indicates that military veterans are at a sixty percent greater  
7 risk of developing ALS than those who have not served in the military; and

8 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has promulgated  
9 regulations to establish a presumption of service connection for ALS thereby presuming that  
10 the development of ALS was incurred or aggravated by a veteran's service in the military;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, a national ALS registry, administered by the Centers for Disease  
13 Control and Prevention, is currently identifying cases of ALS in the United States and may  
14 become the largest ALS research project ever undertaken; and

15 WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month increases the  
16 awareness of the circumstances of living with ALS and acknowledges the terrible impact this  
17 disease has not only on the patient, but also on the family and community of anyone  
18 receiving such a diagnosis; and

19 WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month also increases  
20 awareness of research being done to eradicate this dire disease.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
22 recognize May 2014 as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
24 memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to provide additional  
25 funding for research in order to find a treatment and cure for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
27 secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of  
28 Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States  
29 Congress.

---

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

---

DIGEST

Cortez

SCR No. 52

Recognizes May 2014 as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month and memorializes Congress to enact legislation to provide additional funding for research in order to find a treatment and cure for ALS.