

2005 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 15

May 4, 2005 – Introduced by Representatives TOLES, GRIGSBY, BENEDICT, VRAKAS, BLACK, BOYLE, CULLEN, GRONEMUS, GUNDERSON, HAHN, KRAWCZYK, KREUSER, LEHMAN, LOTHIAN, NISCHKE, OTT, PARISI, PRIDEMORE, SEIDEL, SHERIDAN, VUKMIR, M. WILLIAMS, YOUNG and McCORMICK. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** ALS Awareness Month.

2 Whereas, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), better known as Lou Gehrig's
3 disease, is a fatal progressive disorder that occurs when motor nerve cells in the
4 central nervous system cease functioning and die; and

5 Whereas, the initial symptom of ALS is weakness of the skeletal muscles,
6 especially those of the extremities; and

7 Whereas, as ALS progresses the patient experiences difficulty in swallowing,
8 talking, and breathing; and

9 Whereas, ALS eventually causes muscles to atrophy and the patient becomes
10 a functional quadriplegic; and

11 Whereas, ALS does not affect a patient's mental capacity, so that the patient
12 remains alert and aware of his or her loss of motor functions and the inevitable
13 outcome of continued deterioration and death; and

1 Whereas, ALS occurs in adulthood, most commonly between the ages of 40 to
2 70 years, with the peak age about 55 years, and affects men 2 to 3 times more often
3 than women; and

4 Whereas, each year, over 5,000 people in the United States are diagnosed with
5 this illness, for which there is no known cause or cure; and

6 Whereas, on average, patients diagnosed with ALS only survive 2 to 5 years
7 from the time of diagnosis; and

8 Whereas, in the advanced stages, treatment for ALS can cost up to \$200,000 per
9 year, depleting the financial resources of patients and relatives; and

10 Whereas, the suffering of patients, along with the anguish and struggle of
11 caregivers, must be supported and alleviated as much as possible; now, therefore, be
12 it

13 ***Resolved by the assembly, That*** the Wisconsin assembly proclaims May 2005
14 to be ALS Awareness Month in Wisconsin, and urges all citizens to become educated
15 about ALS and to lend their aid to combating this disease.

16 (END)