



2009 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 23

1 **Relating to:** declaring May as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month.

2 Whereas, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is better known as Lou Gehrig's
3 disease; and

4 Whereas, ALS is a fatal neurological disease characterized by degeneration of
5 nerve cells of the body's voluntary muscles; and

6 Whereas, ALS is one of the most common neuromuscular diseases worldwide,
7 affecting people of all races and backgrounds; and

8 Whereas, the onset of ALS is so slight that the symptoms are often ignored.
9 Early symptoms may include twitching, cramping, muscle weakness, slurred
10 speech, and difficulty swallowing; and

11 Whereas, ALS does not affect a person's mind, personality, or intelligence. Nor
12 does it affect a person's ability to see, smell, taste, or hear; and

13 Whereas, there exists no single test providing a definitive diagnosis. An ALS
14 diagnosis is based on an evaluation of symptoms and a series of tests to rule out other
15 diseases; and

