



2009 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 23

March 4, 2009 – Introduced by Representatives STRACHOTA, BENEDICT, SPANBAUER, M. WILLIAMS, BERCEAU, A. OTT, DEXTER, BIES, BROOKS, PASCH, KAUFERT, LOTHIAN and HINTZ, cosponsored by Senators ERPENBACH, DARLING, WIRCH, COWLES, TAYLOR, KEDZIE, GROTHMAN, OLSEN and LEHMAN. Referred to Committee on Rules.

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

1 Whereas, ALS occurs in adulthood, most commonly between 40 to 70 years of
2 age and affects men two to three times more often than women; and

3 Whereas, over 5,000 new ALS patients are diagnosed annually in the United
4 States; and

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

7 Whereas, in 90 percent to 95 percent of all ALS cases, the disease occurs at
8 random with no known cause or risk factors; and

9 Whereas, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month increases the
10 public's awareness of ALS patients' circumstances and acknowledges the terrible
11 impact this disease has, not only on the patient, but on his or her family as well, and
12 recognizes the research being done to eradicate this horrible disease; now, therefore,
13 be it

14 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the legislature
15 hereby proclaims the month of May 2009 and in each year thereafter, as Amyotrophic
16 Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month in Wisconsin, to coincide with the National
17 Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month; and, be it further

18 ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint
19 resolution to the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association — Wisconsin Chapter.

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(END)