

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 720

WHEREAS, The observance of ALS Awareness Month in May 2023 provides an opportunity to promote better understanding of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; and

WHEREAS, A neurodegenerative condition, ALS was first identified by a French scientist in 1869, and the disease garnered international attention 70 years later, when it ended the career of beloved baseball player Lou Gehrig; often known as Lou Gehrig's disease, it is characterized by degeneration of cell bodies of the upper and lower motor neurons in the gray matter of the anterior horn of the spinal cord; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 5,600 people in the United States are diagnosed with ALS each year, and some 15 Americans are diagnosed each day; in Texas, the ALS Association assisted more than 1,500 individuals during 2022, estimated at 41 percent of the state's ALS population; in addition, it benefited over 4,500 family caregivers and young relatives with its support groups and educational workshops; the association fights daily for people living with ALS, advocating for them, empowering them, and leading cutting-edge research to discover treatments and a cure; since 2020, it has loaned more than \$6 million of medical equipment to Texans at no cost; it supports 13 multidisciplinary clinics across the state offering a variety of resources; and

WHEREAS, During ALS Awareness Month 2023, the ALS Association is celebrating the commencement of construction on the \$100 million Center for Brain Health at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio; the center will

provide innovative, expert care of patients with ALS and other neurologic conditions and help advance research as a clinical trials facility; UT Health San Antonio's Neuromuscular Disorders Program is already an ALS Association-Certified Treatment Center of Excellence, and it is home to one of only 38 Muscular Dystrophy Association/ALS Research Centers in the country; and

WHEREAS, Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis is a serious and life-threatening disease, and the observance of ALS Awareness Month reaffirms our commitment to search for a cure and to enhance quality of life for patients; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 88th Legislature, hereby recognize May 2023 as ALS Awareness Month.

Menéndez

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 28, 2023.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate