

By: Menéndez

S.R. No. 720

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

23           WHEREAS, During ALS Awareness Month 2023, the ALS Association  
24 is celebrating the commencement of construction on the \$100 million

1 Center for Brain Health at The University of Texas Health Science  
2 Center at San Antonio; the center will provide innovative, expert  
3 care of patients with ALS and other neurologic conditions and help  
4 advance research as a clinical trials facility; UT Health  
5 San Antonio's Neuromuscular Disorders Program is already an ALS  
6 Association-Certified Treatment Center of Excellence, and it is  
7 home to one of only 38 Muscular Dystrophy Association/ALS Research  
8 Centers in the country; and

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

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