

By: Nevárez

H.C.R. No. 33

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Social Security Disability Insurance provides
2 critical benefits to people disabled by amyotrophic lateral
3 sclerosis, but federal law currently imposes a five-month waiting
4 period before qualified patients can receive both SSDI and
5 Medicare, regardless of the degree of disability or how quickly the
6 Social Security Administration approves a claim; and

7 WHEREAS, Each year, more than 6,000 Americans are diagnosed
8 with ALS, a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects
9 nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord; military veterans,
10 particularly those deployed in the Gulf War, are approximately
11 twice as likely as others to develop ALS; and

12 WHEREAS, ALS eventually robs its victims of the ability to
13 initiate and control muscle movement, leading to complete paralysis
14 and death; average life expectancy is just three years, and nearly
15 half of all patients die within 16 months of diagnosis; and

16 WHEREAS, The five-month SSDI waiting period was originally
17 established to allow time for temporary conditions to reverse; ALS,
18 however, is always disabling and inevitably fatal; Congress has
19 already acknowledged the unique nature of ALS and its rapid
20 progression by waiving the standard 24-month waiting period for
21 Medicare benefits, and the Social Security Administration has
22 implemented a number of policies to expedite the review of claims by
23 ALS patients for SSDI and Supplemental Security Income benefits;
24 and

1 WHEREAS, ALS is swift, cruel, and unrelenting, and it is
2 vital that those afflicted by this disease have access as quickly as
3 possible to the health and disability benefits they have earned;
4 now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas,
6 1st Called Session, hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the
7 United States to waive the Social Security Disability Insurance
8 five-month waiting period for patients with amyotrophic lateral
9 sclerosis; and, be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
11 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
12 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of
13 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the
14 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that
15 this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record
16 as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.