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By:  Jetton H.R. No. 1086

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, May is ALS Awareness Month, and this occasion provides a fitting opportunity to promote better understanding of this medical condition and to foster increased support for targeted research; and

WHEREAS, Also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis is a progressive neurodegenerative condition that affects motor neurons in the brain and the spinal cord, eventually causing muscle weakness and paralysis; as the motor neurons continue to degenerate, people can lose the ability to speak, eat, move, and breathe; and

WHEREAS, Most patients who develop ALS are between the ages of 40 and 70, and the average survival time is three to five years; in the United States, approximately 30,000 individuals are affected by the disease, and of these cases, more than 90 percent have no apparent cause; and

WHEREAS, While there is not yet a cure for ALS, a number of treatments are available to help alleviate symptoms and prolong the survival of patients, including medications, speech and physical therapy, and nutritional counseling; in addition, devices and equipment such as corrective braces, reach-extenders, and wheelchairs can help with daily activities and improve functional independence; and

WHEREAS, The ALS Association of Texas is dedicated to supporting patients and their families through local care programs, advocacy, and research, and each May, the members and volunteers of the association participate in various events to call attention to issues that impact the ALS community; and

WHEREAS, Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis is a serious and life-threatening disease, and the observance of ALS Awareness Month unites people around the world in their commitment to support the search for a cure and to improve the quality of life for patients; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby recognize May 2021 as ALS Awareness Month and urge all Texans to learn more about the disease.