

By: Jetton

H.R. No. 1086

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, The ALS Association of Texas is dedicated to
24 supporting patients and their families through local care programs,

1 advocacy, and research, and each May, the members and volunteers of
2 the association participate in various events to call attention to
3 issues that impact the ALS community; and

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

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