

Chair Greenlick and Committee Members,

My name is Margaret Doherty and I represent House District 35, which includes Tigard and parts of Southwest Portland.

I am here today to encourage the passage of HB 2317, which designates May of each year as ALS awareness month.

Everyone in this room has been touched by ALS, Whether it be a family member or friend. Our House was touched when Rep. Vic Gilliam was diagnosed a few years ago.

ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive disease that occurs when motor nerve cells in the central nervous system cease to function. It was first recognized as a disease in 1869, but there is still no known cause, prevention or cure. It affects both men and women between the ages of 40 and 70, and military veterans are twice as likely to be diagnosed with ALS. We are hoping that by making May ALS Awareness Month, we will bring to light the disease, the struggles of the patients and caregivers and that more can be done to respond to ALS on a state and national level. Thank you for your support of HB2317.

Margaret Doherty

Rep. Margaret Doherty, HD-35

Office Phone: 503-986-1435 - rep.margaretdoherty@oregonlegislature.gov

