

House Bill 2317

Sponsored by Representatives DOHERTY, BONHAM; Representatives BARKER, BARRETO, BOLES, BYNUM, EVANS, FAHEY, HELT, HOLVEY, LEIF, MCLAIN, MCLANE, NOBLE, NOSSE, PILUSO, POWER, SALINAS, SMITH G, WILLIAMSON, ZIKA (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Designates May of each year as ALS Awareness Month.
Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to ALS Awareness Month; and declaring an emergency.

3 Whereas Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), commonly known as “Lou Gehrig’s disease,” is
4 a progressive disease that occurs when motor nerve cells in the central nervous system cease
5 functioning and die; and

6 Whereas ALS was first recognized as a disease in 1869, but there is still no known cause, pre-
7 vention or cure; and

8 Whereas a patient with ALS progressively loses the ability to move, speak, swallow and even-
9 tually breathe, while the mind remains unaffected and alert; and

10 Whereas ALS occurs most commonly between 40 and 70 years of age, and many of those af-
11 flicted with this disease were previously in excellent health and in the prime of their lives; and

12 Whereas the life expectancy of a patient with ALS is just two to five years post-diagnosis; and

13 Whereas more than 400 Oregonians are living with ALS at any given time, and more than 150
14 Oregonians die from this terrible disease each year; and

15 Whereas ALS affects both men and women without bias and throughout the world with no ra-
16 cial, ethnic or socioeconomic boundaries; and

17 Whereas ALS affects military veterans at twice the rate of the general population; and

18 Whereas in the advanced stages of ALS, care for a patient can cost up to \$200,000 per year, thus
19 depleting the financial resources of many patients and their families; and

20 Whereas the suffering of patients with ALS and the anguish and struggles of caregivers should
21 be alleviated as much as possible; and

22 Whereas important research is being done by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders
23 and Stroke and elsewhere in the nation and around the world, but increased research is necessary
24 to find treatments and eventually a cure for ALS; and

25 Whereas it is imperative, as a matter of public health, that more be done to respond to ALS at
26 the local, state and national levels; and

27 Whereas patients afflicted with ALS and their caregivers would benefit from additional research
28 and increased awareness of this disease; now, therefore,

29 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

30 **SECTION 1. May of each year is designated as ALS Awareness Month.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **SECTION 2. This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
2 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect**
3 **on its passage.**

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