

Enrolled
House Bill 2317

Sponsored by Representatives DOHERTY, BONHAM; Representatives BARKER, BARRETO, BOLES, BOSCHART DAVIS, BYNUM, CLEM, DRAZAN, EVANS, FAHEY, GOMBERG, GORSEK, GREENLICK, HAYDEN, HELM, HELT, HOLVEY, KENY-GUYER, LEIF, LEWIS, LIVELY, MCLAIN, MCLANE, MITCHELL, NERON, NOBLE, NOSSE, PILUSO, POWER, PRUSAK, REARDON, RESCHKE, SALINAS, SCHOUTEN, SMITH G, STARK, WILDE, WILLIAMSON, WILSON, ZIKA, Senators FAGAN, GIROD, OLSEN (Presession filed.)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to ALS Awareness Month; and declaring an emergency.

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

Whereas ALS was first recognized as a disease in 1869, but there is still no known cause, prevention or cure; and

Whereas a patient with ALS progressively loses the ability to move, speak, swallow and eventually breathe, while the mind remains unaffected and alert; and

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

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

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

Whereas ALS affects both men and women without bias and throughout the world with no racial, ethnic or socioeconomic boundaries; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Passed by House February 7, 2019

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Passed by Senate March 11, 2019

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Received by Governor:

.....M,....., 2019

Approved:

.....M,....., 2019

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Kate Brown, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M,....., 2019

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Secretary of State