SLS 15RS-249

ORIGINAL

2015 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 10

BY SENATOR CORTEZ

CONGRESS. Designate May 2015 as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month and memorializes Congress to provide additional funding for research for the treatment and cure of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis.

| 1 | A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION |
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| 2 | To recognize May 2015 as "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month" and to |
| 3 | memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to provide |
| 4 | additional funding for research for the treatment and cure of Amyotrophic Lateral |
| 5 | Sclerosis. |
| 6 | WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, or ALS, is more commonly known as |
| 7 | Lou Gehrig's disease; and |
| 8 | WHEREAS, ALS is a fatal neurodegenerative disease characterized by degeneration |
| 9 | of cell bodies of the lower motor neurons in the gray matter of the anterior horns of the |
| 10 | spinal cord; and |
| 11 | WHEREAS, the initial symptom of ALS is usually weakness of the skeletal muscles, |
| 12 | especially those of the extremities; and |
| 13 | WHEREAS, as ALS progresses, the patient typically experiences difficulty in |
| 14 | swallowing, talking, and breathing; and |
| 15 | WHEREAS, ALS eventually causes muscles to atrophy and the patient becomes a |
| 16 | functional quadriplegic; and |
| 17 | WHEREAS, ALS does not affect mental capacity of the patient, such that the patient |
| 18 | remains alert and aware of surroundings and aware of the loss of motor functions and the |
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| 1 | inevitable outcome of continued deterioration and death; and |
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| 2 | WHEREAS, on average, patients diagnosed with ALS survive only two to five years |
| 3 | from the time of diagnosis; and |
| 4 | WHEREAS, despite the catastrophic consequences of a diagnosis of ALS, the disease |
| 5 | currently has no known cause, means of protection, or cure; and |
| 6 | WHEREAS, research indicates that military veterans are at a sixty percent greater |
| 7 | risk of developing ALS than those who have not served in the military; and |
| 8 | WHEREAS, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has promulgated |
| 9 | regulations to establish a presumption of service connection for ALS thereby presuming that |
| 10 | the development of ALS was incurred or aggravated by a veteran's service in the military; |
| 11 | and |
| 12 | WHEREAS, a national ALS registry, administered by the Centers for Disease |
| 13 | Control and Prevention, is currently identifying cases of ALS in the United States and may |
| 14 | become the largest ALS research project ever undertaken; and |
| 15 | WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month increases the |
| 16 | awareness of the circumstances of living with ALS and acknowledges the terrible impact this |
| 17 | disease has, not only on the patient receiving such a diagnosis, but also on his family and |
| 18 | community; and |
| 19 | WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month also increases |
| 20 | awareness of research being done to eradicate this dire disease. |
| 21 | THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby |
| 22 | recognize May 2015 as "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month". |
| 23 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby |
| 24 | memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to provide additional |
| 25 | funding for research for the treatment and cure of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. |
| 26 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the |
| 27 | secretary of the United States Senate, the clerk of the United States House of |
| 28 | Representatives, and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States |
| | |

29 Congress.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Christopher D. Adams.

SCR 10 Original

DIGEST 2015 Regular Session

Cortez

Recognizes May 2015 as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month and memorializes Congress to enact legislation to provide additional funding for research for the treatment and cure of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis.