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SENATE MEMORIAL 43

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012

INTRODUCED BY

Michael S. Sanchez

A MEMORIAL

PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 3, 2012 "ALS AWARENESS DAY" IN THE SENATE.

WHEREAS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, ALS, is better known as Lou Gehrig's disease; and

WHEREAS, ALS is a fatal neurodegenerative disease that is characterized by degeneration of the cell bodies of the lower motor neurons in the gray matter of the anterior horns of the spinal cord; and

WHEREAS, the initial symptom of ALS is weakness of the skeletal muscles, especially those of the extremities; and

WHEREAS, as ALS progresses, the patient experiences difficulty in swallowing, talking and breathing; and

WHEREAS, ALS eventually causes muscles to atrophy, and the patient becomes a functional quadriplegic; and

WHEREAS, ALS does not affect a patient's mental capacity,

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1 so the patient remains alert and aware of the patient's loss of
2 motor functions and of the inevitable outcome of continued
3 deterioration and death; and

4 WHEREAS, on average, patients diagnosed with ALS only
5 survive two to five years from the time of diagnosis; and

6 WHEREAS, research indicates that military veterans have a
7 fifty-percent greater risk of developing ALS than those who
8 have not served in the military; and

9 WHEREAS, ALS has no known cause, no means of prevention
10 and no cure; and

11 WHEREAS, an estimated one hundred fifty New Mexicans are
12 living with ALS at any given time; and

13 WHEREAS, "ALS Awareness Day" will increase public
14 awareness of ALS patients' circumstances, acknowledge the
15 terrible impact the disease has, not only on the patient but
16 also on the patient's family and community, and recognize the
17 research being done to eradicate this horrible disease;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
19 OF NEW MEXICO that it proclaim February 3, 2012 "ALS Awareness
20 Day" in the senate; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the senate urge the president
22 of the United States and members of congress to enact
23 legislation to provide additional funding for research in order
24 to find a treatment and, eventually, a cure for ALS; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the interim legislative health and human
2 services committee.

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