



SPONSOR: Sen. Bushweller & Rep. Spiegelman

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
149th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 65

RECOGNIZING THE CHAMPIONS OF THE AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS ("ALS") CAUSE AND
ESTABLISHING MAY 2018 AS "ALS AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF DELAWARE.

1 WHEREAS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis ("ALS") is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve
2 cells in the brain and the spinal cord; and

3 WHEREAS, motor neurons reach from the brain to the spinal cord, and from the spinal cord to muscles
4 throughout the body; and

5 WHEREAS, the progressive degeneration of the motor neurons in ALS takes away a person's ability to walk,
6 speak, move, breathe, and eventually leads to their death; and

7 WHEREAS, when the motor neurons die, the ability of the brain to initiate and control muscle movement is lost;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, there is no cure for ALS and there are only 2 drugs available to treat the disease; and

10 WHEREAS, people with ALS live, on average, just 2 to 5 years after diagnosis; and

11 WHEREAS, military veterans are twice as likely as the general population to be diagnosed with ALS, making it a
12 service-connected disease; and

13 WHEREAS, approximately 100 people are living with ALS at any given time in the State of Delaware; and

14 WHEREAS, the leading ALS organization, the ALS Association, supports many ALS patients and their families
15 throughout the State of Delaware; and

16 WHEREAS, the ALS Association leads the way in research, care services, public education, and public policy,
17 giving help and hope to those facing the disease; and

18 WHEREAS, the ALS Association's nationwide network of chapters provides comprehensive patient services and
19 support to the ALS community; and

20 WHEREAS, several Delawareans have made notable strides to address ALS and raise awareness about the
21 disease; and

22 WHEREAS, Mary Ann Wollter, along with her daughter Mary Lou and other friends in the area, started the
23 Rehoboth Beach Walk to Defeat ALS 10 years ago; and

24 WHEREAS, Delaware resident Dr. Scott Mackler, who lived with ALS from 1999 until 2013, pioneered assistive
25 technology and brain computer interface.

26 NOW, THEREFORE:

27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 149th General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of
28 Representatives concurring therein, that the General Assembly recognizes the champions of the ALS cause and establishes
29 May 2018 as ALS Awareness Month in the State of Delaware.

SYNOPSIS

This Concurrent Resolution recognizes the champions of the ALS cause and establishes May 2018 as "ALS Awareness Month" in Delaware.

Author: Senator Bushweller