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SENATE MEMORIAL 4

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

Leo Jaramillo and Antonio Maestas and Jeff Steinborn
and Michael Padilla and Craig W. Brandt

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 18, 2025 "ALS AWARENESS DAY" IN THE SENATE.

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

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

WHEREAS, ALS does not affect a patient's mental capacity, so the patient remains alert and aware of the patient's loss of motor functions and of the inevitable outcome of continued deterioration and death; 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, ALS eventually causes muscles to atrophy, and the

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1 patient becomes a functional quadriplegic; and

2 WHEREAS, research indicates that military veterans have a
3 fifty percent greater risk of developing ALS than those who
4 have not served in the military; and

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

7 WHEREAS, in 2010, soon after his twenty-eighth birthday,
8 former university of New Mexico lobo and Albuquerque high
9 school soccer star Patrick Grange was diagnosed with ALS,
10 making him the youngest ALS patient in New Mexico; and

11 WHEREAS, despite fighting this terrible disease as hard as
12 he could, Pat died of ALS on April 10, 2012, which led to
13 several "Patrick Grange ALS Awareness Days" designated at the
14 state capitol; and

15 WHEREAS, the Grange family has supported numerous New
16 Mexico families affected by ALS over the past decade in
17 collaboration with ALS New Mexico by providing guidance and
18 direction when caring for a someone with ALS; and

19 WHEREAS, ALS New Mexico is a local nonprofit organization
20 that supports, on average, one hundred thirty people living
21 with ALS and their loved ones; and

22 WHEREAS, ALS New Mexico leaves no stone unturned by
23 navigating financial hardships through respite grants, access
24 to life-changing clinical care at the university of New Mexico
25 hospital and providing adaptive equipment free of charge; and

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1 WHEREAS, ALS New Mexico helps many families affected by
2 ALS through funding and providing direct services and capacity
3 support with average annual engagements of approximately one
4 thousand five hundred resource referrals and equipment loans,
5 as well as bringing awareness of ALS through educational
6 opportunities to New Mexico residents; and

7 WHEREAS, "ALS Awareness Day" will increase public
8 awareness of ALS patients' circumstances, acknowledge the
9 terrible impact the disease has, not only on the patient but
10 also on the patient's family and community, and recognize the
11 services being provided to families affected by ALS and the
12 research being done to eradicate this horrible disease; and

13 WHEREAS, we as a community join in collective support to
14 combat ALS and improve the quality of life for patients,
15 families and New Mexicans affected by ALS;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
17 OF NEW MEXICO that February 18, 2025 be declared "ALS Awareness
18 Day" in the senate; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the chair of the interim legislative health and
21 human services committee and ALS New Mexico.