



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 18-3663, **Version:** 1

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### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **PROCLAIMING MAY AS AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS AWARENESS MONTH IN COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), commonly referred to as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a fatal neurodegenerative disease that attacks nerve cells and pathways in the brain and 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, so the patient remains alert and aware of his or her loss of motor functions and the inevitable outcome of continued deterioration and death; and

**WHEREAS**, in many cases, particularly in the later stages, people with ALS need continuous, 24/7 care; and

**WHEREAS**, on average, patients diagnosed with ALS survive only two to five years; and

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

**WHEREAS**, while ALS occurs throughout the world with no racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic boundaries, research indicates that military veterans are approximately twice as likely to develop ALS compared to those who have not served in the military; and

**WHEREAS**, a national ALS patient registry, administered by the Centers for Disease Control, is currently identifying cases of ALS in the United States and may become the single largest ALS research project ever created; and

**WHEREAS**, in May, members of the ALS community from across the country will gather in Washington, D.C. to raise awareness of the disease and advocate before their elected officials in the halls of Congress. It is important that their voices in Washington be echoed in local communities across the country.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim the month of May as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month in Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board urges Congress to enact legislation to provide additional funding for research in order to find a treatment and eventually a cure for ALS.