

STATE OF ILLINOIS



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, leading to muscle weakness, paralysis, and, ultimately, respiratory failure; and,

WHEREAS, according to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are approximately 30,000 individuals living with ALS in the United States, including hundreds of individuals and families impacted in Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, ALS can affect anyone regardless of racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic status, with symptoms typically developing between the ages of 40 and 70; and,

WHEREAS, studies show that military veterans are 1.5-2 times more likely to develop ALS for unknown reasons, according to the National Library of Medicine of the National Institutes of Health; and,

WHEREAS, the average life expectancy of a person with ALS is about 3 to 5 years after diagnosis, and there is currently no known cure for ALS; and,

WHEREAS, designating May as ALS Awareness Month provides an opportunity to educate the public about ALS, support individuals and families affected by the disease, and promote research efforts to find effective treatments and a cure;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim May 2026 as ALS Awareness Month in Illinois and encourage all residents to join in raising awareness, supporting those affected, and advocating for a future without ALS.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this THIRTIETH *day of* APRIL, *in*
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY-SIX, *and of the State of Illinois,*
two hundred and SEVENTH.



Alexi Giannouli
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR