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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING MAY 27, 2025, AS "ALS AWARENESS DAY" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Felix, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Tanzi, J. Lombardi, Hull, Ajello, Shallcross Smith, and Alzate
Date Introduced: May 27, 2025

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease,
2 is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord,
3 leading to muscle weakness, paralysis, and ultimately respiratory failure; and
4 WHEREAS, There is currently no known cure for ALS, and most individuals diagnosed
5 with the disease have a life expectancy of only two to five years after diagnosis; and
6 WHEREAS, Each year, more than 5,000 people in the United States are diagnosed with
7 ALS, and at any given time, tens of thousands of individuals are living with the disease, facing
8 profound emotional, physical, and financial challenges; and
9 WHEREAS, ALS United Rhode Island is the only nonprofit organization in the Ocean
10 State solely dedicated to supporting individuals and families affected by ALS. Through care and
11 support services—including its multidisciplinary clinic and support groups—advocacy, and
12 investments in research and clinical trials, ALS United RI stands beside patients and caregivers
13 every step of the way; and
14 WHEREAS, In the City of Pawtucket alone, five individuals are currently living with
15 ALS, and five more families have lost a loved one to ALS in the past year, underscoring the
16 impact of this disease in our local communities; and
17 WHEREAS, ALS United RI is raising awareness and funding through its annual Soak
18 Challenge, a campaign that invites participants to get soaked in solidarity with those living with
19 ALS, while raising critical resources to support care and research; now, therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
2 recognizes May 27, 2025, as “ALS Awareness Day” in the State of Rhode Island, and encourages
3 all Rhode Islanders to learn more about ALS, support those impacted, and join the effort to find a
4 cure; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That this House hereby commends ALS United RI for its tireless
6 dedication to improving the lives of individuals living with ALS and their caregivers; and be it
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That this House, in the spirit of unity and advocacy, hereby issues a
9 challenge to all Rhode Islanders to join in the Soak Challenge event on June 1, 2025, or to record
10 their own Soak Challenge and donate in support of ALS United RI; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
12 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to ALS United Rhode Island.

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