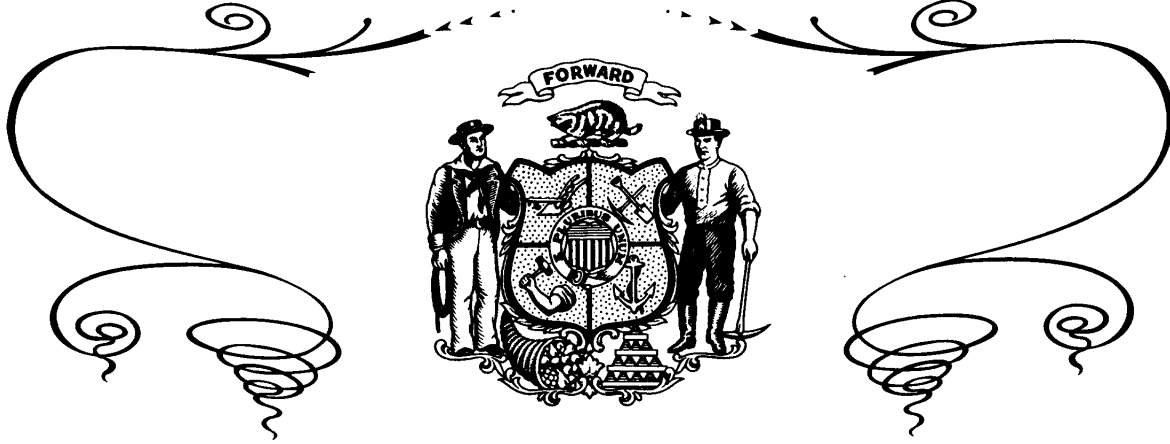


# State of Wisconsin



**2009 Assembly Joint Resolution 23**

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## ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION

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**Relating to:** declaring May as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month.

Whereas, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is better known as Lou Gehrig's disease; and  
Whereas, ALS is a fatal neurological disease characterized by degeneration of nerve cells of the body's voluntary muscles; and

Whereas, ALS is one of the most common neuromuscular diseases worldwide, affecting people of all races and backgrounds; and

Whereas, the onset of ALS is so slight that the symptoms are often ignored. Early symptoms may include twitching, cramping, muscle weakness, slurred speech, and difficulty swallowing; and

Whereas, ALS does not affect a person's mind, personality, or intelligence. Nor does it affect a person's ability to see, smell, taste, or hear; and

Whereas, there exists no single test providing a definitive diagnosis. An ALS diagnosis is based on an evaluation of symptoms and a series of tests to rule out other diseases; and

Whereas, ALS occurs in adulthood, most commonly between 40 to 70 years of age and affects men two to three times more often than women; and

Whereas, over 5,000 new ALS patients are diagnosed annually in the United States; and

Whereas, on average, patients diagnosed with ALS survive only two to five years from the time of diagnosis; and

Whereas, in 90 percent to 95 percent of all ALS cases, the disease occurs at random with no known cause or risk factors; and

Whereas, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month increases the public's awareness of ALS patients' circumstances and acknowledges the terrible impact this disease has, not only on

the patient, but on his or her family as well, and recognizes the research being done to eradicate this horrible disease; now, therefore, be it

***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the legislature hereby proclaims the month of May 2009 and in each year thereafter, as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month in Wisconsin, to coincide with the National Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month; and, be it further

***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint resolution to the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association — Wisconsin Chapter.

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Senator Fred A. Risser  
President of the Senate

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Representative Michael J. Sheridan  
Speaker of the Assembly

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Date

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Patrick E. Fuller  
Assembly Chief Clerk