

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 2025 AS
AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, also commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive fatal neurodegenerative disease in which a person's brain loses connection with the person's muscles, slowly reducing the person's ability to walk, talk, eat and eventually breathe; and

WHEREAS, thousands of new ALS cases are reported every year and estimates show that every 90 minutes someone is diagnosed with ALS and someone passes away from ALS; and

WHEREAS, on average, patients diagnosed with ALS survive only 2 to 5 years from the time of diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, the exact causes of ALS are unknown and there is no known cure for ALS; and

WHEREAS, people who have served in the military are more likely to develop ALS and die from the disease than those with no history of military service; and

WHEREAS, securing access to new therapies, durable medical equipment and communication technologies is of vital importance to people living with ALS; and

WHEREAS, clinical trials play a pivotal role in evaluating new treatments, enhancing quality of life and fostering assistive technologies for those living with ALS; and

WHEREAS, the ALS Association is the largest philanthropic funder of ALS research globally and has committed more than \$154 million to support more than 550 projects across the United States and 18 other countries; and

WHEREAS, the ALS Association is committed to accelerating the pace of discovery, fueled by the hope that one day ALS will be a livable disease for everyone, everywhere, until a cure can be found; and

WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month provides an opportunity to increase public awareness of the dire circumstances of people living with ALS, acknowledge the terrible impact this disease has on those individuals and their families and support research to eradicate this disease; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the members of the One Hundred Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, declare May 2025 to be Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month and call upon all citizens of the State to join in supporting ALS research, advocating for increased funding and standing in solidarity with those affected by this relentless disease.