

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), or Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive, fatal neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 30,000 Americans living with ALS, and an estimated 15 people are diagnosed with this disease each day; and

WHEREAS, the symptoms of ALS progress from weakness of the skeletal muscles, especially those of the extremities, to difficulty in swallowing, talking, and breathing, and eventual muscle atrophy, with the patient becoming a functional quadriplegic; and

WHEREAS, ALS does not impact a patient's mental capacity, and those affected remain alert and aware of the loss of motor function and continued deterioration that lead to the inevitable outcome of death; and

WHEREAS, on average, ALS patients survive for only 3 to 5 years following diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, while ALS has no known cause, means of prevention, or cure, aggressive treatment of the symptoms can extend the lives of individuals affected by the disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 2015 as

ALS AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to raise awareness of this devastating disease, its terrible effect on all those it touches, and the need for continued research into its causes, prevention, and cure.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nikki R. Haley".

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA