

# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

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

WHEREAS, each year approximately 5,600 Americans, generally between the ages of 40 and 70, are diagnosed with ALS; 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 two to five years following diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, ALS has no known cause, means of prevention, or cure.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 2012 as

### AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS 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