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ADVISORY:

On April 21st, ALS Advocates from across Pennsylvania visit Harrisburg to urge continued support for funding ALS patient care services

WHO/WHAT: People with ALS, family members, and caregivers and are meeting in Harrisburg to urge Pennsylvania legislators to continue funding for ALS Association patient services. ALS Advocates will spend the day meeting with approximately 50 lawmakers in the state capitol to make the case for funding ALS patient care services.

Since 2012, with the leadership of ALS ally Representative Bryan Cutler and bipartisan support in both chambers, the Pennsylvania legislature has passed line item funding for ALS patient care. Advocates from all corners of the state are sharing their stories in Harrisburg to urge continued support for this critical funding. Representative Cutler lost both of his parents to ALS.

The ALS Association will present a Hero of Hope certificate to State Senator Stewart Greenleaf for his years of support and compassion for ALS families in Pennsylvania. Dale Miller, a military veteran from Ambler, PA who is living with ALS, will present the certificate to Senator Greenleaf. Military veterans are twice as likely to be diagnosed with ALS as the general population.

Together, the ALS Association Western PA Chapter and the ALS Association Greater Philadelphia Chapter serve over 1,000 families living with Lou Gehrig’s disease, an always fatal progressive neuromuscular disease with a typical life expectancy of 2-5 years from diagnosis. Details at www.cure4als.org and www.alsphiladelphia.org

In addition to the press conference, Representative Cutler will present a proclamation recognizing May as ALS Awareness Month on the House floor with patients in attendance. State Senators Larry Farnese and Rob Teplitz will present a proclamation in the Senate as well.

WHEN: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 1:30-2:30 PM

WHERE: Rotunda Steps, Harrisburg, PA

PHOTO/INTERVIEW: Patients with ALS, legislators supporting the fight against ALS, caregivers from The ALS Association. Follow for pictures and quotes all day @alsphiladelphia and @TheALSAWPA with #ALSAdvocacyPA

WHY: Funding for patient services through the Western PA and Greater Philadelphia Chapters saves the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania money by helping to keep patients out of expensive nursing facilities, allowing family members to stay in their jobs, and by providing affordable care to people with ALS in every part of the state.

The ALS Association and its local chapters are leading the fight to treat and cure ALS through global research and nationwide advocacy while empowering people with Lou Gehrig’s Disease and their families to live fuller lives by providing them with compassionate care and support. For more information, visit the ALS Association Greater Philadelphia Chapter website at www.alsphiladelphia.org.