The ALS Association Secures $300,000 Budget Line Item to Support Critical Patient Services for 800 Families in Pennsylvania

State legislature realizes the importance of fighting Lou Gehrig’s Disease

The Pennsylvania state legislature has passed a budget that includes a $300,000 line item dedicated to helping people with Lou Gehrig’s Disease. This news comes after more than six years of ALS advocates meeting with state legislators to express the urgent need to fund ALS patient services. The ALS Association supports over 800 families with ALS through the work of the Western Pennsylvania and Greater Philadelphia Chapters.

On May 1, over two dozen ALS advocates, joined by Rep. Bryan Cutler, their chief ally in the legislature, went to Harrisburg to convey their personal stories and share how important these services are to their well-being, both physically and economically.

“The Pennsylvania legislature recognized the importance of supporting people with ALS because patients, families, and caregivers were willing to share their stories,” said Neil Alexander, who was diagnosed with ALS about a year ago and is living in the Pittsburgh area. “Most people still do not know much about Lou Gehrig’s Disease, so statistics alone aren’t enough. People affected by ALS need to know that they are not alone in this fight and that they have friends in Harrisburg as well.”

The services that this line item will help fund include support for ALS clinics, in-home care, home accessibility, wheelchairs, other medical equipment, and assistive technology that gives people living with ALS a voice.

“The ALS Association makes sure that people who are diagnosed with this horrible disease have the help and knowledge they need throughout their difficult journey with Lou Gehrig’s Disease,” added Merritt Holland Spier, Executive Director of the ALS Association Western Pennsylvania Chapter.

The Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the ALS Association is committed to leading the fight to treat and cure ALS through global research and nationwide advocacy while also empowering people with Lou Gehrig’s Disease and their families to live fuller lives while providing them with compassionate care and support. Find out more at www.cure4als.org.

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