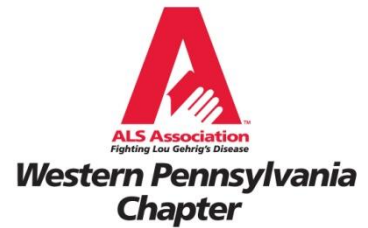


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Pennsylvania ALS Advocates take their stories to Harrisburg for ALS Awareness Month

WHO/ WHAT: People with ALS, family members, legislators and caregivers are meeting in Harrisburg to raise awareness of Lou Gehrig's disease and to support funding for ALS Association patient services.

The ALS Association will present Representative Bryan Cutler (R-Peach Bottom) with an award for helping to Cover All the Bases for ALS families. Representative Cutler lost both of his parents to ALS.

Together, the ALS Association Western PA Chapter and the ALS Association Greater Philadelphia Chapter serve over 800 patients and families living with Lou Gehrig's disease, a progressive neuromuscular disease with a typical life expectancy of 2-5 years from diagnosis.

In addition to the press conference, Representative Cutler will present a proclamation for ALS Awareness Month on the House floor with patients in attendance.

WHEN: Tuesday, May 1 from 3:00-3:30 PM

WHERE: Capital Steps, Harrisburg, PA

PHOTO/

INTERVIEW: Patients with ALS, legislators supporting the fight against ALS, caregivers from The ALS Association

WHY: In 2010, the Pennsylvania legislature approved \$325,000 in funding for patient services for people with ALS. These critical services include home care, speech generating devices, medical and mobility equipment assistance, transportation programs, and support groups for patients and families. That funding was cut in 2011 and ALS advocates are going to Harrisburg to promote support for this urgent need.

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 Western Pennsylvania Chapter website at www.cure4als.org.