



Support Bill #A4450 to Fund ALS Patient Care in New Jersey

Between the Greater New York and Greater Philadelphia Chapters, The ALS Association supports over 350 people with ALS in New Jersey while our statistics show that over 500 people are currently living with ALS in our state.

Assemblyman Troy Singleton has proposed legislation that allows taxpayers to use their gross income tax returns to make voluntary contributions to The ALS Association for services to New Jersey residents. Please join Assemblyman Singleton in supporting bill #A4450 to benefit families in New Jersey who are living with Lou Gehrig's Disease.

This funding would support programs in New Jersey such as:

- **Multidisciplinary Clinics:** People with ALS are able to meet with as many as a dozen specialists in one visit, including a neurologist, nurse, speech therapist, physical therapist, occupational therapist, dietician, and Assistive Technology specialist, all to address unique patient needs.
- **In-Home Care:** People with ALS can receive up to 10 hours of in-home care, which gives them to spend more time with family members, allows family caregivers to continue working, and can save the state budget millions of dollars in long term care spending.
- **Wheelchairs and Durable Medical Equipment:** The ALS Association provides a long list of medical equipment needs, making sure people with ALS do not need to wait for the devices they need.
- **Assistive Technology:** As people with ALS lose their ability to speak, The ALS Association provides devices such as iPads that can assist them with communication and more.

In 2012, the Pennsylvania legislature approved a \$300,000 line item in the state budget which allowed the ALS Association to provide clinic and in-home care services to over 400 people living with ALS. This funding helped contribute directly to a higher quality of life for patients and families. Multiple studies confirm the benefit of multidisciplinary care and, combined with the 2,600 hours of in-home care provided through this line item, we estimate that the money spent by the Pennsylvania legislature amounted to as much as \$37,536,000 in savings to the state budget by keeping people out of more expensive nursing home facilities, with a conservative estimate of at minimum \$9,300,000, based on studies done by the Pennsylvania Healthcare Association (PHCA). **Now we need to follow that example and provide adequate funding for ALS patient care here in New Jersey.**

I urge you to please support Assemblyman Troy Singleton's legislation to allow taxpayers to contribute to make voluntary contributions to The ALS Association for services to New Jersey residents on their tax returns.

Name: _____ **Signature:** _____

Address: _____ **Email:** _____