

July 23, 2008

Senator Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate
313 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Schumer:

I am writing to ask you to vote for S.3297, the Advancing America's Priorities Act, which includes the text of the ALS Registry Act (S. 1382). This may be your only opportunity to vote on this critical legislation and support your constituents in the ALS community. So please, join us in the fight for a treatment and cure for ALS by voting for S. 3297 when the Senate considers the legislation.

As you know, ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease is a progressive, fatal, neurodegenerative disease that erodes a person's ability to control muscle movement. The average life expectancy for people with ALS is two to five years following diagnosis and there is no known cause, cure or means of prevention for the disease. Moreover, the disease does not discriminate and can strike anyone at anytime, although our nation's veterans are twice as likely to develop ALS as those who have not served in the military. Currently, only one drug has been approved by the FDA to treat the disease, but that drug has shown only limited affects, prolonging life by just a few months.

For nearly two years, people with ALS in our state and across the country have been waiting for Congress to pass the ALS Registry Act, which would establish a national ALS patient registry at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It would arm our nation's researchers and clinicians with the tools they need to find a treatment and cure. The bill was unanimously reported by the House Energy and Commerce Committee last year and subsequently passed the House in 2007 by an overwhelming 411-3 vote. In the Senate, more than 77 Senators have signed on as cosponsors and the Senate HELP Committee also favorably reported the legislation by unanimous consent last fall.

The time has come to pass this vital legislation. It has overwhelming bipartisan support. It has the support of the ALS scientific, clinical and research communities. And most importantly, it has the support of your constituents, the people living with ALS and their families in our state.

Please join us in the fight for a treatment and cure by voting for S. 3297, the Advancing America's Priorities Act. People with ALS simply don't have to wait.

Sincerely,

Signature

Print Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip