



Action Alert

Dear Friend:

We have great news of critical importance to Americans confronting ALS, a physically and financially debilitating disease.

Today marks the beginning of the process to reintroduce the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act. This bill would waive the five-month Social Security Disability (SSDI) waiting period before people with ALS receive access to SSDI benefits. In the Senate, Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Tom Cotton (R-AR) began circulating a letter requesting original sponsors, while Reps. Seth Moulton (D-MA) and Peter King (R-NY) did the same in the House.

[Ask your members of Congress to be an original cosponsor of the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act now!](#)

ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that is fatal 100 percent of the time. Over the course of the disease, people with ALS lose the ability to initiate and control muscle movement, which leads to total paralysis and death within five years of diagnosis. For unknown reasons, veterans are twice as likely to develop ALS as the general population.

ALS brings devastating financial implications for families. Due to the debilitating nature of the disease, most people diagnosed with ALS lose their jobs and employer-based insurance during the most challenging periods of their lives. The financial burden of the disease is compounded by our current system, which requires people diagnosed with ALS to wait five full months before they receive their SSDI benefits.

The intent of the SSDI five-month waiting period is to allow for the correction or resolution of temporary conditions and to discourage those who can work from electing not to. However, ALS is never temporary or reversible. In fact, because of its degenerative and often aggressive nature, some people living with ALS lose their fight with the disease before the five-month waiting period is over. On average, it takes more than a year before a final ALS diagnosis is made.

Time works against people living with ALS. It is essential that we lift the five-month waiting period and allow immediate access to disability benefits for those who have received an ALS diagnosis.

Take Action