

SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 3, 2016

ATTACHMENT 1

From: Knudsen's [<mailto:parretthead@me.com>]

Sent: Monday, February 16, 2015 9:20 AM

To: Representative Melissa Wintrow

Subject: EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE FOR THE TERMINALLY ILL

Hello:

My name is John Knudsen and I have Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, it is a disease of the nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that control voluntary muscle movement. ALS is also known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)—also referred to as motor neurone disease (MND), Charcot disease, and, in the United States, Lou Gehrig's disease—is a neurodegenerative disease with various causes. It is characterised by rapidly progressive weakness due to muscle atrophy and muscle spasticity, difficulty in speaking (dysarthria), swallowing (dysphagia), and breathing (dyspnea). ALS is the most common of the five motor neuron diseases.

The disease is 100% fatal. I was Given the death sentence five years ago
This May, outliving the majority of people with ALS (PALS).

The disease has no known cure! Recently Lawmakers in Missouri and Louisiana have passed similar bills unanimously in recent days, while voters in Arizona will weigh that state's version of the law at the polling place this November.

This bill if have passed would allow people with terminal illness to seek experimental treatment. It would allow patients and doctors to work together to secure experimental treatments with the permission of a pharmaceutical company. Insurance companies are not required to pay for the treatment, and drug manufacturers can choose whether to charge for the medication or to provide it to the patient free of charge.

I urge you and your elected colleagues to pass a bill that would give myself
And thousands of people some hope if not a cure of literally hundreds of diseases
that rob us of our lives.

Thank you, regards,

John A. Knudsen
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