January 12, 2026

The Honorable Mariannette Miller-Meeks
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Health
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Julia Brownley
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Health
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Miller-Meeks and Ranking Member Brownley:

On behalf of ALS United and the people living with ALS and families we serve nationwide, we write to express our strong support for the Veterans with ALS Reporting Act (H.R. 6001).

ALS, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a fatal, progressive neurodegenerative disease affecting nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. ALS gradually results in the loss of the ability to walk, speak, move, and eventually breathe. There is still no cure, and the average life expectancy after diagnosis is often described as two to five years, though some people live longer.

For veterans and their families, an ALS diagnosis often follows years of service and sacrifice. Veterans are twice as likely to develop ALS as the general population, yet despite long-standing recognition of this increased risk, critical questions remain unanswered—why this risk exists, which factors may contribute, and what steps could help reduce risk for future servicemembers.

We appreciate the VA's ongoing work to monitor ALS among veterans and to improve care and research pathways. We also appreciate the bipartisan efforts of Congress to codify and strengthen these activities so they endure.

The Veterans with ALS Reporting Act is compelling because it moves us from acknowledging a troubling reality to building the evidence base to act. By directing the Department of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to report to Congress on ALS among veterans and to identify opportunities to develop and evaluate potential risk reduction strategies, as well as to examine ways to improve pathways into VA-sponsored clinical trials and research, this bill helps ensure that prevention, research participation, and transparency remain priorities. It also creates a durable accountability loop through ongoing tracking and periodic updates, helping Congress and VA measure progress over time and identify where additional policy action is needed.

ALS United appreciates the Subcommittee's continued attention to the disproportionate burden ALS places on veterans and the bipartisan work to identify solutions. We support advancing H.R. 6001 to

help build the evidence base and sustain accountability, while continuing to work with VA and partners on the practical steps that will make the biggest difference for veterans and their families.

Sincerely,

Jerry Dawson
President and CEO
ALS United