

WASHINGTON- The U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate have passed the ALS Registry Act of 2007. The bill was introduced by Congressman Lee Terry (R-NE) and Congressman Eliot Engel (D-NY). The bill provides for the creation of a nationwide registry for persons afflicted with ALS. The next step is for the President to sign it into law.

"All diseases bring hardships on those afflicted, but ALS is particularly cruel in the quickness of the onset, the severity of the symptoms and the fatal nature of the condition. The provisions to create a nationwide registry for persons afflicted with ALS are important steps forward in strengthening the efforts to understand, treat and one day eradicate this terrible disease," said Congressman Terry.

A national registry will help identify the occurrence and frequency of ALS and other motor neuron disorders and collect data, which is needed in ALS research. ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) is a fatal, progressive, neurodegenerative disease affecting motor nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. Approximately 5,600 people in the United States are diagnosed with ALS each year. It is estimated that as many as 30,000 Americans have the disease. There is no known cure for ALS.

