

HR 9079

2015

## House Resolution

A resolution recognizing May 2015 as "Lupus Awareness Month" in Florida.

WHEREAS, lupus is a cruel and mysterious chronic autoimmune disease in which the immune system is unbalanced, causing inflammation and tissue damage to virtually every organ system in the body, and

WHEREAS, there are an estimated 1.5 million Americans who have lupus, including an estimated 100,000 Floridians, and

WHEREAS, lupus can affect any part of the body, including the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys, and brain, which can lead to seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages, and organ failure, and

WHEREAS, while lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age, African Americans are more likely than Caucasians to develop lupus, and

WHEREAS, lupus can be particularly difficult to diagnose because its symptoms are similar to those of many other illnesses and often vary from person to person, and

WHEREAS, it takes, on average, six or more years before people with lupus obtain a correct diagnosis, and

WHEREAS, only one new drug has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration specifically for lupus in more than 50 years, and current treatments for the disease can have damaging side effects, NOW, THEREFORE,

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28 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
29 Florida:

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31       That May 2015 is recognized as "Lupus Awareness Month" in  
32 Florida.