

## House Resolution 1340

By: Representatives Cooper of the 43<sup>rd</sup>, Efstoration of the 104<sup>th</sup>, Clark of the 101<sup>st</sup>, Sims of the 123<sup>rd</sup>, Kaiser of the 59<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Tuesday, February 18, 2014, as Lupus Awareness Day at the state capitol; and  
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, on Tuesday, February 18, 2014, Representative Sharon Cooper and the Georgia  
4 Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America will host Lupus Awareness Day at the state  
5 capitol; and

6 WHEREAS, lupus is an acute and chronic (lifelong) autoimmune disease in which the  
7 immune system is unbalanced, causing inflammation and tissue damage to virtually every  
8 organ system in the body; and

9 WHEREAS, lupus can affect any part of the body, including the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys,  
10 and brain; no organ is spared as this disease can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks,  
11 miscarriages, and organ failure; and

12 WHEREAS, while lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age, no one is safe from  
13 lupus as it also affects men and children; and

14 WHEREAS, African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Asians, and Native Americans are two  
15 to three times more likely to develop lupus – a disparity that remains unexplained; and

16 WHEREAS, at least 1.5 million Americans, including approximately 55,000 Georgians, are  
17 currently living with lupus; and

18 WHEREAS, lupus is a major health issue that has a significant impact on the economy of  
19 this state and takes an immeasurable physical, financial, and emotional toll on many families  
20 in Georgia; and

21 WHEREAS, the effects of lupus on a family can be devastating in that it is a chronic,  
22 lifelong, and life-threatening disease, and despite its prevalence, it remains one of the least  
23 recognizable and most misunderstood diseases, labeling lupus as the cruel mystery; and

24 WHEREAS, the Lupus Foundation of America is the nation's leading nonprofit voluntary  
25 health organization, dedicated to finding the causes and a cure for lupus while providing  
26 support and services to all people affected by lupus; and

27 WHEREAS, 90 percent of every dollar raised by the Georgia Chapter of the Lupus  
28 Foundation of America stays in Georgia to support the chapter's programs; and

29 WHEREAS, the Lupus Foundation of America provides resources for thousands of patients  
30 and families, including support and information, physician referrals, public and professional  
31 education, and grassroots advocacy on the state and federal level.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
33 the members of this body commend the work of the Lupus Foundation of America and other  
34 organizations devoted to finding a cure for lupus and to supporting the individuals and  
35 families whose lives are affected by this autoimmune disease and recognize Tuesday,  
36 February 18, 2014, as Lupus Awareness Day at the state capitol.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
38 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Chapter of the  
39 Lupus Foundation of America.