

Senate Resolution 179

By: Senators Anderson of the 43rd, Orrock of the 36th, Seay of the 34th, Sims of the 12th, Harbison of the 15th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the work of the Lupus Foundation of America and recognizing February 23,
2 2023, as Lupus Advocacy Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, on Thursday, February 23, 2023, Senator Tonya Anderson and the Georgia
4 Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America will host Lupus Advocacy 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, and thus has the potential to cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages,
11 and organ failure; and

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

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

17 WHEREAS, the effects of lupus on a family can be devastating in that it is a chronic,
18 lifelong, and life-threatening disease, yet despite its prevalence it remains one of the least
19 recognizable and most misunderstood of all diseases, labeling it "the cruel mystery"; and

20 WHEREAS, lupus affects primarily young women in their crucial childbearing years, but it
21 can also affect men, children, and women of all ages; and

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

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

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

30 WHEREAS, in 2014, Governor Nathan Deal established the Georgia Council on Lupus
31 Education and Advocacy to investigate the level of education and awareness of lupus across
32 the state; and

33 WHEREAS, the Council has developed a statewide action plan and established a
34 multidisciplinary collaborative that will launch initiatives to increase knowledge of lupus;
35 educate healthcare providers, consumers, and legislators; and address early diagnosis, access
36 to care, and health disparities in lupus.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
38 commend the work of the Lupus Foundation of America and other organizations devoted to
39 finding a cure for lupus and to supporting the individuals and families whose lives are
40 affected by this autoimmune disease and recognize February 23, 2023, as Lupus Advocacy
41 Day at the state capitol.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
43 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Georgia
44 Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America.