

## Senate Resolution 645

By: Senators James of the 35th, Rhett of the 33rd, Thompson of the 5th, Davenport of the 44th, Parent of the 42nd and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 1, 2018, as Lupus Advocacy Day at the state capitol; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, on March 1, 2018, Senator Donzella James and the Georgia Chapter of the  
4 Lupus Foundation of America will host Lupus Advocacy Day at the state capitol; and

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

8 WHEREAS, lupus can affect any part of the body, including the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys,  
9 and brain and, thus, has the potential to cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages,  
10 and organ failure; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 WHEREAS, the Council has developed a statewide action plan and will launch lupus  
33 initiatives to increase knowledge; educate health care providers, consumers, and legislators;  
34 and address early diagnosis, access to care, and health disparities in lupus.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
36 commend the work of the Lupus Foundation of America and other organizations devoted to  
37 finding a cure for lupus and to supporting the individuals and families whose lives are  
38 affected by this autoimmune disease, and recognize March 1, 2018, as Lupus Advocacy Day  
39 at the state capitol.

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