

House Concurrent Resolution No. 35

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE PROUDIE.

2378H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

Relating to lupus awareness month and lupus awareness day.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

2 **WHEREAS**, lupus is a complex and debilitating autoimmune disease that can cause
3 inflammation and tissue damage to organ systems in the body, including the skin, joints, other
4 connective tissue, blood and blood vessels, heart, lungs, kidneys, and brain; and

5 **WHEREAS**, approximately 1,500,000 to 2,000,000 Americans live with some form of
6 lupus; and

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8 **WHEREAS**, lupus affects women nine times more often than men, and 80 percent of
9 newly diagnosed cases of lupus develop among women of childbearing age; and

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11 **WHEREAS**, lupus disproportionately affects women of color and is generally more
12 prevalent in minority populations, a health disparity that remains unexplained; and

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14 **WHEREAS**, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the rate of
15 lupus mortality has increased since the late 1970s and is higher among older African-American
16 women; and

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18 **WHEREAS**, there have been no new drugs approved by the federal Food and Drug
19 Administration for lupus in nearly 40 years, and current treatments, while usually effective, have
20 many damaging side effects; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, pain and fatigue associated with lupus threaten the ability to live
23 independently and make it difficult to maintain employment and lead normal lives; and

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25 **WHEREAS**, one in five people diagnosed with lupus is disabled by the disease and, as
26 a consequence, receives support from government programs, including Medicare, Medicaid,
27 Social Security Disability, and Supplemental Security Income; and

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29 **WHEREAS**, the estimated average annual cost of medical treatment for an individual
30 with lupus is \$10,000 at a minimum and can greatly exceed that amount for individuals with
31 more serious forms of lupus, thus causing a significant economic, emotional, and social burden
32 to families and society; and

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34 **WHEREAS**, lupus is difficult to diagnose and can lead to several years of visiting
35 multiple physicians before individuals obtain an accurate diagnosis; and

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37 **WHEREAS**, early diagnosis of and treatment for lupus can prevent or reduce serious
38 organ damage, disability, and death; and

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40 **WHEREAS**, despite the impact of lupus on individuals, families, and health
41 professionals, public understanding of lupus is very limited. Only one in five Americans can
42 provide even basic information about lupus, and awareness of lupus is lowest among adults ages
43 18 to 34 years, the age group most likely to develop symptoms of lupus; and

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45 **WHEREAS**, lupus is a significant national health issue that deserves a comprehensive
46 and coordinated response by federal and state governments with the involvement of health care
47 providers, patients with lupus, and public health communities:

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49 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
50 Representatives of the One Hundred First General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
51 concurring therein, hereby designate the month of May each year as "Lupus Awareness Month"
52 and May 10 of each year as "Lupus Awareness Day" in the state of Missouri; and

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54 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the citizens of Missouri are encouraged to
55 participate in appropriate events and activities that raise awareness about the diagnosis and
56 treatment of lupus and its impact on the lives of individuals living with lupus; and

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58 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution be sent to the Governor for his
59 approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.

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