

House Concurrent Resolution No. 46

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE PROUDIE.

1687H.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, kidney, and brain; and

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

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

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

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

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

17 **WHEREAS**, pain and fatigue associated with lupus threatens the ability to live
independently and make it difficult to maintain employment and lead normal lives.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

40 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the citizens of Missouri are encouraged
41 to participate in appropriate events and activities that raise awareness about the diagnosis and
42 treatment of lupus and its impact on the lives of individuals living with lupus; and

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

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