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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

SENATE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MAY TO BE LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH IN THE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senator Harold M. Metts

Date Introduced: April 28, 2011

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Each year, the Lupus Foundation of America designates May as National
2 Lupus Awareness Month to show support for the estimated 1.5 million Americans who have
3 Lupus; and

4 WHEREAS, Lupus is an acute and chronic (lifelong) autoimmune disease that causes the
5 immune system to become unbalanced and attack normal tissue, resulting in inflammation and
6 tissue damage to virtually every organ system in the body; and

7 WHEREAS, Lupus can affect any part of the body, including the skin, joints, lungs,
8 heart, blood system, kidneys, and brain. No organ is spared. The disease can cause seizures,
9 strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages, and organ failure; and

10 WHEREAS, While Lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age, no one is safe from
11 Lupus. African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Asians, and Native Americans are two to three
12 times more likely to develop Lupus, and women are 10 times more likely than men to be affected
13 by Lupus--disparities that remain unexplained; and

14 WHEREAS, Lupus can be particularly difficult to diagnose because its symptoms are
15 similar to those of many other diseases, and major gaps exist in our understanding of the causes
16 and consequences of Lupus. More than half of all people with Lupus take four or more years and
17 visit three or more doctors before obtaining an accurate diagnosis; and

18 WHEREAS, Continued research, new medicines and treatment with minimal side effects
19 are needed to combat this dreaded illness. Increased education and support can alert the public to

1 the challenges that Lupus brings into so many lives and promote programs of research, education,
2 and community service within our state; and

3 WHEREAS, Five thousand two hundred and sixty-one citizens of the State of Rhode
4 Island are affected by Lupus; now, therefore it be

5 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
6 hereby proclaims the month of May, 2011, to be “Lupus Awareness Month” in the State of Rhode
7 Island. We furthermore urge all citizens to join with local Lupus support groups and observe this
8 month by educating themselves on the symptoms and impact of Lupus; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
10 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Rhode Island Lupus Group and the Lupus
11 Foundation of America, Inc.

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