

## Senate Resolution 126

By: Senators Unterman of the 45th, Seay of the 34th and Butler of the 55th

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Wednesday, February 13, 2013, as Lupus Awareness Day; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, lupus is an acute, chronic, and life-long autoimmune disease in which the  
4 immune system is unbalanced, causing inflammation and tissue damage to virtually every  
5 organ system in the body; and

6 WHEREAS, lupus can affect any part of the body, including the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys,  
7 and brain, causing seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages, and organ failure; and

8 WHEREAS, while lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age, it can also affect men  
9 and children; African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Asians, and Native Americans are two  
10 to three times more likely to develop lupus, a disparity that remains unexplained; 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, the Lupus Foundation of America is the nation's leading nonprofit voluntary  
20 health organization, dedicated to finding the causes and a cure for lupus while providing  
21 support and services to all people affected by the disease; and

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

24 WHEREAS, the Lupus Foundation of America provides resources for thousands of patients  
25 and families, including support and information, physician referrals, public and professional  
26 education, and grassroots advocacy on the state and federal levels.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
28 commend the work of the Lupus Foundation of America and other organizations devoted to  
29 finding a cure for lupus and to supporting the individuals and families whose lives are  
30 affected by this autoimmune disease and recognize Wednesday, February 13, 2013, as Lupus  
31 Awareness Day at the state capitol.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
33 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Chapter of the Lupus  
34 Foundation of America.