

Senate Resolution 769

By: Senator Unterman of the 45th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing Tuesday, February 18, 2014, as Lupus Awareness Day at the state capitol; and
- 2 for other purposes.

- 3 WHEREAS, on Tuesday, February 18, 2014, Senator Renee Unterman and the Georgia
- 4 Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America will host Lupus Awareness Day at the state
- 5 capitol; and

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

- 9 WHEREAS, lupus can affect any part of the body, including the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys,
- 10 and brain. No organ is spared. This disease can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks,
- 11 miscarriages, and organ failure; and

- 12 WHEREAS, while lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age, no one is safe from
- 13 lupus as it also affects men and children. African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Asians and
- 14 Native Americans are two to three times more likely to develop lupus - a disparity that
- 15 remains unexplained; and

- 16 WHEREAS, at least 1.5 million Americans, including approximately 55,000 Georgians, are
- 17 currently living with lupus; and

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

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

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

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

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

31 WHEREAS, the Lupus Foundation of America provides resources for thousands of patients
32 and families, including support and information, physician referrals, public and professional
33 education, and grassroots advocacy on the state and federal level.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
35 commend the work of the Lupus Foundation of America and other organizations devoted to
36 finding a cure for lupus and to supporting the individuals and families whose lives are
37 affected by this autoimmune disease and recognize Tuesday, February 18, 2014, as Lupus
38 Awareness Day at the state capitol.

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