

Senate Resolution 116

By: Senators Unterman of the 45th, Seay of the 34th, Davenport of the 44th, Orrock of the 36th, Butler of the 55th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 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 life-long, 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 25, 2015, 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 make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the Georgia Chapter
34 of the Lupus Foundation of America.