

House Resolution 221

By: Representatives Cooper of the 43rd, Sims of the 123rd, Drenner of the 85th, Dempsey of the 13th, and Bennett of the 94th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Wednesday, February 25, 2015, as Lupus Awareness Day at the state capitol;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, on Wednesday, February 25, 2015, Representative Sharon Cooper and the
4 Georgia Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America will host Lupus Awareness Day at the
5 state capitol; and

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

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

11 WHEREAS, lupus mainly affects women of childbearing age, but no one is safe from lupus
12 as it can also affect men, children, and women of all ages; and

13 WHEREAS, African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Asians, and Native Americans are two
14 to three times more likely to develop lupus than Caucasians, a disparity that remains
15 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 because 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, which is why it has been labeled the cruel
24 mystery; and

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

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

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

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
34 the members of this body commend the work of the Lupus Foundation of America and other
35 organizations devoted to finding a cure for lupus and to supporting the individuals and
36 families whose lives are affected by this autoimmune disease and declare Wednesday,
37 February 25, 2015, as Lupus Awareness Day at the state capitol.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
39 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
40 Georgia Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America.