

House Resolution 1321

By: Representatives Cooper of the 43rd, Gilligan of the 24th, Hawkins of the 27th, Sharper of the 177th, Carson of the 46th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Georgia Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America and recognizing
2 February 25, 2016, as Lupus Awareness Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, on February 25, 2016, Representative Sharon Cooper and the Georgia Chapter
4 of the Lupus Foundation of America will host Lupus Awareness Day at the state capitol; and

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

8 WHEREAS, lupus can affect any part of the body, including the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys,
9 and brain, and can cause seizures, 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 as it also affects men and children; African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Asians, and
12 Native Americans are two to three times more likely to develop lupus, a disparity that
13 remains unexplained; and

14 WHEREAS, at least 1.5 million Americans, including approximately 55,000 Georgians, are
15 currently living with lupus; and

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

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

22 WHEREAS, the Lupus Foundation of America is the nation's leading nonprofit voluntary
23 health organization, dedicated to finding the etiology and cure for lupus, while providing
24 support and services to all people affected by lupus; and

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

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

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
31 the members of this body commend the work of the Lupus Foundation of America and other
32 organizations devoted to finding a cure for lupus and to supporting the individuals and
33 families whose lives are affected by this autoimmune disease, and recognize February 25,
34 2016, as Lupus Awareness Day at the state capitol.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
36 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
37 Georgia Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America, the public, and the press.