

Senate Resolution 181

By: Senators James of the 35th, Orrock of the 36th, Rhett of the 33rd, Henson of the 41st, Lucas of the 26th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing Thursday, March 9, 2017, as Lupus Awareness Day at the state capitol; and for
- 2 other purposes.
- 3 WHEREAS, on Thursday, March 9, 2017, Senator Renee Unterman 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 (lifelong) autoimmune disease in which the
- 6 immune system is unbalanced, causing inflammation and tissue damage to virtually every
- 7 organ system in the body; and
- 8 WHEREAS, lupus can affect any part of the body, including the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys,
- 9 and brain, and thus has the potential to cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages,
- 10 and organ failure; 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, lupus affects primarily young women in their crucial childbearing years, but it
- 20 can also affect men, children, and women of all ages; and

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

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

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

29 WHEREAS, in 2014, Governor Nathan Deal established the Georgia Council on Lupus
30 Education and Awareness to investigate the level of education and awareness of lupus across
31 the state; and

32 WHEREAS, the Council has developed a Statewide Action Plan and will launch lupus
33 initiatives to increase knowledge; educate health care providers, consumers, and legislators;
34 and address early diagnosis, access to care, and health disparities in lupus.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY SENATE that the members of this body
36 commend the work of the Lupus Foundation of America and other organizations devoted to
37 finding a cure for lupus and to supporting the individuals and families whose lives are
38 affected by this autoimmune disease and recognize Thursday, March 9, 2017, as Lupus
39 Awareness Day at the state capitol.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
41 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Georgia
42 Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America.