

House Resolution 325

By: Representatives Cooper of the 43rd, Dempsey of the 13th, Lott of the 122nd, Newton of the 123rd, and Silcox of the 52nd

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, Representative Sharon Cooper 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 chronic (lifelong) autoimmune disease in which the
7 immune system is unbalanced, causing inflammation and tissue damage to virtually every
8 organ system in the body; and

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

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

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, the Lupus Foundation of America is the nation's leading nonprofit voluntary
23 health organization, dedicated to finding the causes and a 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; and

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

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

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

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