

House Resolution 973

By: Representatives Schofield of the 60th, Marin of the 96th, Scott of the 76th, Shannon of the 84th, and Cooper of the 43rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 1, 2018, as Lupus Advocacy Day at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, on March 1, 2018, Representative Kim Schofield and the Georgia Chapter of
4 the Lupus Foundation of America will host Lupus Advocacy Day at the state capitol; and

5 WHEREAS, lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease in which the immune system is
6 unbalanced, causing inflammation and tissue damage to virtually every organ system in the
7 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 primarily affects 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 level; and

29 WHEREAS, in 2014, Governor Nathan Deal established the Georgia Council on Lupus
30 Education and Advocacy to investigate the level of education and advocacy 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 THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
36 the members of this body commend the work of the Lupus Foundation of America and other
37 organizations devoted to finding a cure for lupus and to supporting the individuals and
38 families whose lives are affected by this autoimmune disease, and recognize March 1, 2018,
39 as Lupus Advocacy Day at the state capitol.

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