

House Resolution 189

By: Representatives Schofield of the 60th, Scott of the 76th, Rich of the 97th, Trammell of the 132nd, and Cannon of the 58th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 27, 2019, as Lupus Advocacy Day at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, on Wednesday, February 27, 2019, Representative Kim Schofield and the
4 Georgia Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America will host Lupus Advocacy Day at the
5 state 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, which has resulted in it being labeled as "the
20 cruel mystery"; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
38 the members of this body commend the work of the Lupus Foundation of America and other
39 organizations devoted to finding a cure for lupus and supporting the individuals and families
40 whose lives are affected by this autoimmune disease and recognize February 27, 2019, as
41 Lupus Advocacy Day at the state capitol.

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