

## Senate Resolution 227

By: Senators James of the 35th, Davenport of the 44th, Butler of the 55th and Karinshak of the 48th

## 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, Senator Donzella James of the 35th 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 SENATE that the members of this body  
38 commend the work of the Lupus Foundation of America and other organizations devoted to  
39 finding a cure for lupus and supporting the individuals and families whose lives are affected  
40 by this autoimmune disease and recognize February 27, 2019, as Lupus Advocacy Day at the  
41 state capitol.

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