

Senate Resolution 725

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th and Butler of the 55th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 20, 2020, as Lupus Advocacy Day at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, on February 20, 2020, Representative Kim Schofield and the Georgia Chapter
4 of the Lupus Foundation of America will host Lupus Advocacy 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, which has resulted in it being labeled "the
19 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 at 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 healthcare 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 SENATE that the members of this body
37 commend the work of the Georgia Chapter 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 February 20,
40 2020, as Lupus Advocacy Day at the state capitol.

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