

Senate Resolution 381

By: Senators Esteves of the 35th, James of the 28th, Kemp of the 38th, Halpern of the 39th,
Parent of the 44th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing March 2025 as Autoimmune Disease Awareness Month; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, autoimmune diseases occur when the immune system mistakenly attacks
3 healthy cells and tissues, affecting more than 50 million Americans and millions more
4 individuals worldwide; and
- 5 WHEREAS, there are over 100 identified autoimmune diseases, many of which
6 disproportionately impact women, who make up approximately 80 percent of individuals
7 affected; and
- 8 WHEREAS, systemic lupus erythematosus (lupus) disproportionately affects Black women,
9 who are at greater risk of experiencing more severe symptoms and are three times more
10 likely to develop the disease compared to women of other groups; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Black women are also at an increased risk for other autoimmune diseases,
12 including sarcoidosis and polymyositis, which can lead to severe health complications; and

13 WHEREAS, autoimmune diseases contribute to significant health disparities for Black
14 women, resulting in a critical need for increased awareness, research, and access to equitable
15 healthcare; and

16 WHEREAS, Autoimmune Disease Awareness Month provides an opportunity to educate the
17 public and healthcare professionals about autoimmune diseases, their impact on Black
18 women, and the importance of early detection and intervention; and

19 WHEREAS, supporting organizations dedicated to autoimmune disease advocacy, education,
20 and research is essential to improving outcomes for those affected.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
22 recognize March 2025 as Autoimmune Disease Awareness Month and acknowledge the
23 disproportionate impact of autoimmune diseases on Black women.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
25 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
26 press.