

Senate Resolution 590

By: Senator Davenport of the 17th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Thursday, February 19, 2026, as Lupus Advocacy Day at the state capitol; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, lupus is an acute and chronic (lifelong) autoimmune disease in which the
4 immune system is unbalanced, causing inflammation and tissue damage to virtually every
5 organ system in the body; and

6 WHEREAS, lupus can affect any part of the body, including the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys,
7 and brain; and thus, has the potential to cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages,
8 and organ failure; and

9 WHEREAS, at least 1.5 million Americans, including approximately 55,000 Georgians, are
10 currently living with lupus; and

11 WHEREAS, lupus is a major health issue which takes a physical, financial, and emotional
12 toll on many Georgia families that can cause a significant impact on the state's economy; and

13 WHEREAS, the effects of lupus on a family can be devastating in that it is a chronic,
14 lifelong, and life-threatening disease, and despite its prevalence, it remains one of the least
15 recognizable and most misunderstood diseases labeling lupus as the cruel mystery; and

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

18 WHEREAS, lupus nephritis, a form of kidney disease, is a serious life-threatening
19 complication of lupus; the need for screening in lupus for lupus nephritis is crucial for early
20 diagnosis and prompt treatment; and

21 WHEREAS, Georgia Medicaid has the opportunity to play a meaningful role in addressing
22 the problem of insufficient screening by emphasizing its importance to patients and
23 healthcare providers; and

24 WHEREAS, by doing so, Georgia Medicaid can help improve patient outcomes and make
25 a positive impact on the lives of those affected by lupus and lupus nephritis; and

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

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

31 WHEREAS, the Georgia Council on Lupus Education and Awareness was established in
32 2014 to investigate the level of education and awareness of lupus across the state and has

33 developed a statewide action plan with a multidisciplinary collaborative that will launch
34 lupus initiatives to increase knowledge, educate healthcare providers, consumers and
35 legislators, 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 Lupus Foundation of America and other organizations devoted to
38 finding a cure for lupus and to supporting the individuals and families whose lives are
39 affected by this autoimmune disease and declare Thursday, February 19, 2026, as Lupus
40 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.