

House Resolution 1140

By: Representatives Schofield of the 63rd, Scott of the 76th, Davis of the 87th, Lewis-Ward of the 115th, Erwin of the 32nd, and others

A RESOLUTION

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

3 WHEREAS, on February 19, 2026, 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, labeling lupus as the cruel mystery; and

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

21 WHEREAS, Lupus Nephritis, a form of kidney disease, is a serious life-threatening
22 complication of lupus; the need for screening for Lupus Nephritis is crucial for early
23 diagnosis and prompt treatment; and

24 WHEREAS, Georgia Medicaid has the opportunity to play a meaningful role in addressing
25 the problem of insufficient screening by emphasizing its importance to patients and
26 healthcare providers. By doing so, Georgia Medicaid can help improve patient outcomes and
27 make a positive impact on the lives of those affected by lupus and Lupus Nephritis; and

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

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

33 WHEREAS, the Lupus Foundation of America provides resources for thousands of patients
34 and families, including support and information, physician referrals, public and professional
35 education, and grassroots advocacy on the state and federal level; and

36 WHEREAS, in 2014, Governor Nathan Deal established the Georgia Council on Lupus
37 Education and Awareness to investigate the level of education and awareness of lupus across
38 the state; and

39 WHEREAS, the Council has developed a statewide action plan and established a
40 multidisciplinary collaborative that will launch lupus initiatives to increase knowledge,
41 educate healthcare providers, consumers and legislators, address early diagnosis, access to
42 care and health disparities in lupus.

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
44 the members of this body commend the work of the Lupus Foundation of America and other
45 organizations devoted to finding a cure for lupus and to supporting the individuals and
46 families whose lives are affected by this autoimmune disease and declare February 19, 2026,
47 as Lupus Advocacy Day at the state capitol.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
49 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
50 Georgia Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America.