

By Senator Benacquisto

30-02429-14

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing May 2014 as "Lupus Awareness Month" in Florida.

WHEREAS, each year, the Lupus Foundation of America designates May as National Lupus Awareness Month to show support for the estimated 1.5 million Americans who have lupus, including an estimated 100,000 Floridians, and

WHEREAS, lupus is a cruel and mysterious chronic autoimmune disease in which the immune system is unbalanced, causing inflammation and tissue damage to virtually every organ system in the body, and

WHEREAS, lupus can affect any part of the body, including the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys, and brain, and no organ is spared by the disease, which can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages, and organ failure, and

WHEREAS, while lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age, no one is safe from lupus, with African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, and Native Americans two to three times more likely to develop lupus, a disparity that remains unexplained, and

WHEREAS, lupus can be particularly difficult to diagnose because its symptoms are similar to those of many other illnesses, and major gaps exist in understanding the causes and consequences of lupus, and

WHEREAS, it takes 4 or more years and three or more doctor visits before more than half of all people with lupus obtain a correct diagnosis, and

WHEREAS, only one new drug has been approved by the U.S.

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30 Food and Drug Administration specifically for lupus in more than
31 50 years, and current treatments for the disease can have
32 damaging side effects, NOW, THEREFORE,

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34 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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36 That May 2014 is recognized as "Lupus Awareness Month" in
37 Florida.