

By Senator Stargel

22-05232-19

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing May 2019 as "Lupus Awareness Month" in Florida.

WHEREAS, systemic lupus erythematosus, commonly known as lupus, is an acute, chronic, and lifelong autoimmune disease which creates an imbalance in the immune system, causing inflammation and tissue damage to virtually every part of the body, including the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys, and brain, and

WHEREAS, although the majority of cases of lupus can be controlled with proper treatment, the disease can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages, and organ failure, and it results in the deaths of thousands of Americans each year, and

WHEREAS, more than 5 million people worldwide, and more than 1.5 million people in the United States, are living with this chronic disease for which there is no cure, and

WHEREAS, each year, more than 100,000 individuals are newly diagnosed with lupus, 90 percent of whom are women of childbearing age, with African-American, Latina, Hispanic, Native American, and Asian women being two to three times more likely to develop the disease, and

WHEREAS, lupus can be particularly difficult to diagnose because its symptoms mimic those of many other diseases, and major gaps exist in understanding the causes of this disease, and

WHEREAS, because lupus is difficult to diagnose, more than half of all people diagnosed with lupus suffer for 4 or more years and see three or more doctors before receiving an accurate

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30 diagnosis, and

31 WHEREAS, the Lupus Foundation of America has declared May
32 as "Lupus Awareness Month," 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 2019 is recognized as "Lupus Awareness Month" in
37 Florida.