

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1845

A Resolution designating May as Lupus Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, Every 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; and

WHEREAS, Lupus is an acute and 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; causing seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages and organ failure; and

WHEREAS, Despite striking mostly women of childbearing age, no one is safe from lupus. African-Americans, Hispanics, Asians and Native Americans are 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. Symptoms, such as fatigue, skin rashes, joint pain and hair loss mimic other conditions and appear differently in different people. More than half of all people with lupus take four or more years and visit three or more doctors before obtaining a correct diagnosis as there is no single test to diagnose lupus; and

WHEREAS, A late diagnosis of lupus contributes to significant disability and death. If left untreated, the health consequences of lupus can be devastating and potentially fatal. People with lupus suffer tremendous emotional and physical pain, one in four are permanently disabled, and thousands die each year from lupus complications; and

WHEREAS, The awareness of lupus is extremely low, as only one in five Americans is aware of lupus symptoms and health effects. Young women ages 18-34 are least aware of lupus, yet they are the group most often affected, and nearly all Americans lack the understanding of the serious and life-threatening complications of lupus; and

WHEREAS, Recent medical advances in the treatment of lupus have been recently announced and signify the potential for an improvement in the standard of treatment for this dreaded disease: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we designate the month of May as Lupus Awareness Month in the State of Kansas and that we urge all Kansans to observe this month by educating themselves on the symptoms and impact of lupus, and to join the Lupus Foundation of America in supporting programs of research, education, and community service; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send three enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Faust-Goudeau.

Senate Resolution No. 1845 was sponsored by Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

---

---

*President of the Senate.*

---

*Secretary of the Senate.*