

1 HJR496
2 130750-1
3 By Representatives McClurkin, Ison and Love
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 04-MAY-11

8 DESIGNATING MAY 2011 AS "LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH" IN
9 ALABAMA.

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11 WHEREAS, Lupus is an acute, chronic, and lifelong
12 autoimmune disease in which the immune system is unbalanced,
13 causing inflammation and tissue damage to virtually every
14 organ system in the body; and

15 WHEREAS, Lupus can affect any part of the body,
16 including the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys, and brain, with no
17 organ spared, and can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks,
18 miscarriages, and organ failure; and

19 WHEREAS, researchers estimate that five million
20 people worldwide have been diagnosed with Lupus or related
21 diseases, with about 100,000 new diagnoses each year; and

22 WHEREAS, the Lupus Foundation of America, Inc.,
23 estimates that more than 1.5 million Americans live with some
24 form of Lupus, including an estimated 23,000 Alabamians; and

25 WHEREAS, Lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing
26 age, affecting all aspects of their lives, with African

1 Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Asians, and Native Americans two
2 to three times more likely to develop Lupus, a disparity that
3 remains unexplained; and

4 WHEREAS, Lupus is difficult to diagnose because its
5 symptoms are similar to symptoms of other illnesses, meaning
6 that more than one-half of all people with Lupus wait four or
7 more years and visit three or more doctors before they are
8 correctly diagnosed; and

9 WHEREAS, early diagnosis and proper treatment are
10 critical to improving the quality of life and survival rate of
11 those living with Lupus; and

12 WHEREAS, major gaps exist in the understanding of
13 the causes and consequences of Lupus, and increased public
14 awareness, education, and research are key to winning the
15 battle against the disease; now therefore,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
17 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That May 2011 is designated as
18 "Lupus Awareness Month" in Alabama.