

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

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2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

3 DESIGNATING MAY 2011 AS "LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH" IN
4 ALABAMA.

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6 WHEREAS, Lupus is an acute, chronic, and lifelong
7 autoimmune disease in which the immune system is unbalanced,
8 causing inflammation and tissue damage to virtually every
9 organ system in the body; and

10 WHEREAS, Lupus can affect any part of the body,
11 including the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys, and brain, with no
12 organ spared, and can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks,
13 miscarriages, and organ failure; and

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

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

20 WHEREAS, Lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing
21 age, affecting all aspects of their lives, with African
22 Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Asians, and Native Americans two
23 to three times more likely to develop Lupus, a disparity that
24 remains unexplained; and

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

6 WHEREAS, early diagnosis and proper treatment are
7 critical to improving the quality of life and survival rate of
8 those living with Lupus; and

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

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

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4 Speaker of the House of Representatives

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6 President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

7 House of Representatives

8 I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
9 and was adopted by the House 05-MAY-11.

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16 Senate

25-MAY-11

Adopted

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