**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPACT OF LUPUS ON THE MILLIONS OF INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED BY LUPUS WORLDWIDE, AS WELL AS THE IMPORTANCE OF EFFORTS FOR FINDING THE CAUSES OF AND CURE FOR THE DISEASE, AND TO PROCLAIM MAY 2018 AS “LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH” IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are happy to proclaim May 2018 as Lupus Awareness Month in order to promote the efforts of many organizations which help to raise funds in the hope of preventing and curing lupus and which also help to educate the public about the symptoms and effects of lupus on those affected by the disease; and

Whereas, lupus is a global health problem that affects people of every nationality, race, ethnicity, gender, and age. The disease has a significant impact on the nation’s healthcare system, due to the complexity of the disease and its treatment; and

Whereas, a chronic autoimmune disease estimated to affect 1.5 million Americans, lupus can damage any part or system of the body, such as skin, joints, and organs, and can have a devastating impact on patients and their families; and

Whereas, more than sixteen thousand new cases of lupus are reported each year, most of whom are between the ages of fifteen and forty‑four, with women of childbearing age comprising the largest number, but men, children, and teenagers develop lupus as well; and

Whereas, Candle in the Rain Foundation, a lupus support group in Greenville and proud partner with the Lupus Foundation of America, was formed as a voice for lupus patients and is dedicated to providing lupus education, supporting patients and their families, promoting awareness of the disease, and funding research in order to find a cure for lupus; and

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate appreciates the efforts of the Candle in the Rain Foundation to encourage all South Carolinians to be aware of the serious and complicated health issues related to lupus, to improve patient healthcare services for those affected by the disease, to increase research into its causes, and to help find a cure for lupus. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize the impact of lupus on the millions of individuals affected by lupus worldwide, as well as the importance of efforts for finding the causes of and cure for the disease, and proclaim May 2018 as “Lupus Awareness Month” in the State of South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Darlene Biera, a representative of Candle in the Rain Foundation.

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