**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO COMMEND CHASTA POSEY OF GREENVILLE FOR HER FINE WORK IN PROMOTING AWARENESS OF SARCOIDOSIS TO THE CITIZENS OF THE PALMETTO STATE, TO THANK HER FOR HER DEDICATED PATIENT ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF THOSE LIVING WITH THIS RARE DISEASE, AND TO DECLARE THE MONTH OF APRIL 2022 AS “SARCOIDOSIS AWARENESS MONTH” IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, the month of April was declared National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month by the U.S. Congress in 2008, the aim being to raise awareness about sarcoidosis and encourage further research into this rare condition. An inflammatory disease, sarcoidosis causes small patches of red and swollen tissue called granulomas to develop in the organs of the body. It usually affects the lungs and skin. The symptoms of sarcoidosis depend on which organs are affected, but typically include tender, red bumps on the skin; shortness of breath; and a persistent cough. The disease presently has no cure, but symptoms usually can be managed with medicine; and

Whereas, 70% of people affected by sarcoidosis are between the ages of 20 and 40, and women are more likely to develop the disease; and

Whereas, awareness and education are crucial to increasing the recognition, diagnosis, understanding, and management of sarcoidosis, according to the Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research. For seven years, forwarding the cause of awareness and education has been the task of Chasta Posey, a seventeen‑year thriving survivor of sarcoidosis and committed patient advocate for those who live with the disease; and

Whereas, this native of Greenville rerouted her life when she contracted sarcoidosis, becoming a patient advocate for the Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research (FSR). Her association with FSR has afforded her several opportunities to serve as a patient ambassador/advocate, peer mentor, and patient navigator, as well as the opportunity to join the inaugural Women of Color Committee; and

Whereas, Chasta is also a newly appointed sarcoidosis ambassador for one of the larger rare‑disease foundations, AllStripes. In addition, she has worked with the Pulmonary Hypertension Association and is currently in collaboration with the Susan Pearlstine Center of Excellence at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC); and

Whereas, Chasta, who loves helping people, is very passionate about assisting other patients to find their voice for the cause. Being a charismatic voice for the voiceless not only allows her to bring education and awareness to others but also enables her to help other patients advocate for themselves. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, commend Chasta Posey of Greenville for her fine work in promoting awareness of sarcoidosis to the citizens of the Palmetto State, thank her for her dedicated patient advocacy on behalf of those living with this rare disease, and declare the month of April 2022 as “Sarcoidosis Awareness Month” in South Carolina.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Chasta Posey.

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