**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

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

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are happy to declare May 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, educate the public about the symptoms and effects of lupus on those affected by the disease, and which provide funding to lupus patients and their families; 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. Women of childbearing age comprise the largest number, but men, children, and teenagers develop lupus as well; and

Whereas, Crowning Lupus, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and supporter of 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, funding research in order to find a cure for lupus, providing support groups and scholarships to the community at‑large, and providing income to cover medical expenses; and

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

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

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

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Executive Director of Crowning Lupus, Jade Nealious.

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