

House Resolution

No. 50

Introduced by Assembly Member Medina

April 27, 2016

House Resolution No. 50—Relative to Lupus Awareness Month.

1 WHEREAS, Lupus is a disease that affects more people than
2 AIDS, cerebral palsy, sickle cell anemia, and multiple sclerosis
3 combined. One of out every 185 Americans has lupus. Lupus is
4 hard to diagnose, mimics other diseases, and its sufferers usually
5 do not get treatment until they have suffered with the symptoms
6 for many years; and

7 WHEREAS, Lupus affects approximately 1.4 million Americans,
8 90 percent of people diagnosed with the disease are women, 80
9 percent develop the disease between 15 and 45 years of age, and
10 the disease is two to three times more prevalent among people of
11 color, including African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, and Native
12 Americans; and

13 WHEREAS, Understanding lupus will help us better understand
14 infections in general, allergies, cancer, and even AIDS. Medical
15 students are often told if they know lupus then they know medicine;
16 lupus is the paradigm of autoimmunity, as lupus can affect every
17 part of the body; and

18 WHEREAS, At least nine states have declared the month of
19 May as Lupus Awareness Month — California, Colorado,
20 Minnesota, North Carolina, North Dakota, New York, Oregon,
21 Virginia, and Wisconsin; and

22 WHEREAS, Lupus is an autoimmune disease that can affect
23 any part of the body, including internal organs, the skin, and joints.
24 The disease also has many different symptoms and, because of

1 that, affects each person differently. Because of its unpredictable
2 nature, people with lupus often have many questions about the
3 disease; and

4 WHEREAS, Each person with lupus has different symptoms
5 that can range from mild to severe and may come and go over
6 time. Lupus is not to be taken lightly; it can affect many parts of
7 the body, including, but not limited to, the kidneys, lungs, central
8 nervous system, blood vessels, blood, heart, and skin; and

9 WHEREAS, The State Department of Health Care Services
10 concluded in its 2008 Lupus Data/Statistics report that death rates
11 from lupus increased nearly 70 percent among black women
12 between 45 and 64 years of age. Possible reasons include an
13 increasing incidence of systemic lupus erythematosus, later
14 diagnosis, less access to health care, less-effective treatments, and
15 poorer compliance with treatment recommendations. Each year
16 during the study period, death rates were more than five times
17 higher for women than for men; and

18 WHEREAS, Existing public information and programs about
19 lupus in California remain inadequately disseminated and
20 insufficient in addressing the needs of specific diverse populations
21 and other underserved groups; and

22 WHEREAS, Educating the public and the health care community
23 throughout the state about this devastating disease is of paramount
24 importance and is in every respect in the public interest and to the
25 benefit of all residents of the State of California; and

26 WHEREAS, Many other organizations strive to educate the
27 community about lupus and how to manage the disease and also
28 to bring more awareness through advocacy and education while
29 providing support and resources to families that are affected by
30 the disease; and

31 WHEREAS, Advocates around the country have joined together
32 to advocate for lupus awareness, support, and a better future
33 through research, diagnosis, education, and treatment; now,
34 therefore, be it

35 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, That the*
36 *Assembly observes the month of May 2016 as Lupus Awareness*
37 *Month; and be it further*

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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