

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 53

By: Johnson (Constance),
Easley, Eason McIntyre,
Leftwich, Paddack, Adelson,
Aldridge, Anderson,
Ballenger, Barrington,
Bass, Bingman, Branan,
Brogdon, Brown, Burrage,
Coates, Coffee, Corn,
Crain, Crutchfield, Ellis,
Ford, Garrison, Gumm,
Halligan, Ivester, (Johnson
(Mike), Jolley, Justice,
Lamb, Laster, Lerblance,
Marlatt, Mazzei, Myers,
Newberry, Nichols,
Reynolds, Rice, Russell,
Schulz, Sparks,
Stanislawski, Sweeden,
Sykes, Wilson and Wyrick

A Resolution proclaiming the month of May as Lupus Awareness Month in the State of Oklahoma; urging citizens to join in supporting programs of research, education and community service; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, each year the Lupus Foundation of America designates May as National Lupus Awareness Month to show support for the estimated 1.5 million Americans who have lupus, 25,000 of whom are Oklahomans; and

WHEREAS, lupus is an acute and chronic auto immune disease in which the immune system is unbalanced, causing inflammation and tissue damage to virtually every organ system in the body; and

WHEREAS, lupus can affect any part of the body, including the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys and brain. No organ is spared. The disease can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages and organ failure; and

WHEREAS, while lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age, no one is safe from lupus. African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Asians and Native Americans are two to three times more likely to develop lupus, and women are 10 times more likely than men to be affected by lupus – disparities that remain unexplained; and

WHEREAS, lupus can be particularly difficult to diagnose because its symptoms are similar to those of many other illnesses, and major gaps exist in understanding the causes and consequences of lupus. More than half of all people with lupus take four or more years and visit three or more doctors before obtaining an accurate diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved no new drugs specifically for lupus in 50 years, and current treatments for the disease can have damaging side effects. The Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation is a preeminent source for lupus research in the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate proclaims the month of May as Lupus Awareness Month in the State of Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate urges each citizen to observe this month by educating themselves on the symptoms and impact of lupus, and to join with the Oklahoma Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America and local lupus support groups in promoting programs of research, education and community service.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Lea Jensen, Executive Director, Oklahoma Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of

America; Maudie Simpson, Founder, ONE Lupus Support Group (Oklahoma Northeast Lupus Support Group - 1 LSG); and Dr. Stephen M. Prescott, President, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation.

Adopted by the Senate the 11th day of May, 2009.

Presiding Officer of the Senate