

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 SENATE
4 RESOLUTION 53

By: Johnson (Constance),
Easley, Eason McIntyre,
Leftwich and Paddack

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8 AS INTRODUCED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate urges each citizen to observe
22 this month by educating themselves on the symptoms and impact of
23 lupus, and to join with the Oklahoma Chapter of the Lupus Foundation
24

1 of America and local lupus support groups in promoting programs of
2 research, education and community service.

3 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Lea Jensen,
4 Executive Director, Oklahoma Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of
5 America; Maudie Simpson, Founder, ONE Lupus Support Group (Oklahoma
6 Northeast Lupus Support Group - 1 LSG); and Dr. Stephen M. Prescott,
7 President, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation.

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