STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 54th Legislature (2014)

SENATE
RESOLUTION 97 By: Shortey

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution declaring May 15, 2014, as Lupus Advocacy Day and May 2014 as Lupus Awareness Month in Oklahoma; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, each year May is designated as National Lupus Awareness Month to show support for the estimated two million Americans, including approximately 50,000 Oklahomans, who have Lupus; and

WHEREAS, more women die each year from Lupus-related symptoms than from breast cancer; and medical research efforts into Lupus and the discovery of safer, more effective treatments for Lupus patients are underfunded in comparison to diseases of comparable magnitude and severity; and

WHEREAS, Lupus is an acute and chronic autoimmune 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; and can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages, organ failures and, in some cases, death; and

WHEREAS, while Lupus can strike people regardless of gender or age, 90 percent of individuals diagnosed with the disease are women mostly of childbearing age. African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic/Latino Americans and Asian Americans are two to three times more likely to develop Lupus, a disparity that remains 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; and

WHEREAS, the Lupus Foundation of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation in Oklahoma City have distinguished themselves as state and national leaders in Lupus advocacy, awareness, education, outreach, referral, support, research and treatment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 54TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate declares May 15, 2014, as Lupus Advocacy Day and May 2014 as Lupus Awareness Month in Oklahoma.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Lupus Foundation of Oklahoma.

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