

Senate Resolution 639

By: Senators Davenport of the 44th, Sims of the 12th, Harbison of the 15th, Jones II of the 22nd, Seay of the 34th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 20, 2024, as Lupus Advocacy Day at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, the Georgia Chapter of the Lupus Foundation
4 of America will host Lupus Advocacy Day at the state capitol; and

5 WHEREAS, lupus is an acute and chronic (lifelong) autoimmune disease in which the
6 immune system is unbalanced, causing inflammation and tissue damage to virtually every
7 organ system in the body; and

8 WHEREAS, lupus can affect any part of the body, including the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys,
9 and brain, and thus has the potential to cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages,
10 and organ failure; and

11 WHEREAS, at least 1.5 million Americans, including approximately 55,000 Georgians, are
12 currently living with lupus; and

13 WHEREAS, lupus is a major health issue that has a significant impact on the economy of
14 this state and takes an immeasurable physical, financial, and emotional toll on many families
15 in Georgia; and

16 WHEREAS, the effects of lupus on a family can be devastating in that it is a chronic,
17 lifelong, and life-threatening disease, and despite its prevalence it remains one of the least
18 recognizable and most misunderstood of all diseases, labeling lupus as the cruel mystery; and

19 WHEREAS, lupus affects primarily young women in their crucial childbearing years, but it
20 can also affect men, children, and women of all ages; and

21 WHEREAS, Lupus Nephritis, a form of kidney disease, is a serious, life-threatening
22 complication of lupus. The need for screening in lupus for Lupus Nephritis is crucial for
23 early diagnosis and prompt treatment. Georgia Medicaid has the opportunity to play a
24 meaningful role in addressing the problem of insufficient screening by emphasizing its
25 importance to patients and healthcare providers. By doing so, Georgia Medicaid can help
26 improve patient outcomes and make a positive impact on the lives of those affected by lupus
27 and Lupus Nephritis; and

28 WHEREAS, the Lupus Foundation of America is the nation's leading nonprofit voluntary
29 health organization, dedicated to finding the causes and a cure for lupus while providing
30 support and services to all people affected by lupus; and

31 WHEREAS, 90 percent of every dollar raised by the Georgia Chapter of the Lupus
32 Foundation of America stays in Georgia to support the chapter's programs; and

33 WHEREAS, the Lupus Foundation of America provides resources for thousands of patients
34 and families, including support and information, physician referrals, public and professional
35 education, and grassroots advocacy on the state and federal level; and

36 WHEREAS, in 2014, Governor Nathan Deal established the Georgia Council on Lupus
37 Education and Advocacy to investigate the level of education and awareness of lupus across
38 the state; and

39 WHEREAS, the council has developed a state-wide action plan and established a
40 multidisciplinary collaborative that will launch lupus initiatives to increase knowledge,
41 educate healthcare providers, consumers, and legislators, and address early diagnosis, access
42 to care, and health disparities in lupus.

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
44 commend the work of the Lupus Foundation of America and other organizations devoted to
45 finding a cure for lupus and to supporting the individuals and families whose lives are
46 affected by this autoimmune disease and recognize February 20, 2024, as Lupus Advocacy
47 Day at the state capitol.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
49 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Georgia
50 Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America.