

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 39

BY SENATORS BARROW AND BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To recognize May 2021 as Lupus Awareness Month in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease that can damage any part of the body, often the skin, joints, and organs, yet few Americans are even aware of the existence of the condition and its possible symptoms; and

WHEREAS, the Lupus Foundation of America estimates that one and a half million Americans, and at least five million people worldwide, have a form of lupus; and

WHEREAS, this disease affects people of all nationalities, races, genders, and ages, which makes informing people of lupus and its affects more important because everyone is at risk; and

WHEREAS, lupus can be particularly difficult to diagnose because its symptoms are similar to those of many other illnesses, and the medical profession's current knowledge of the causes and effects of the disease are incomplete; and

WHEREAS, on average, it takes nearly six years for people with lupus to be diagnosed from the time they first notice their lupus symptoms, and many people have been seen by four or more different health care providers for their lupus symptoms before being accurately diagnosed; and

WHEREAS, no two cases of lupus are exactly alike because signs and symptoms may come on suddenly or develop slowly, may be mild or severe, and may be temporary or permanent; and

WHEREAS, most people with lupus have a mild disease characterized by periods when signs and symptoms are worse for a time and then improve or disappear; and

WHEREAS, people with lupus can experience significant symptoms such as pain, extreme fatigue, hair loss, cognitive issues, physical impairments, and many suffer from cardiovascular disease, strokes, disfiguring rashes, and painful joints, while others have no visible symptoms; and

WHEREAS, the World Lupus Foundation has made a global call-to-action on behalf of the millions of people affected by lupus worldwide to better disseminate information about this unpredictable, but devastating disease; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that nearly two-thirds of the public have little or no knowledge regarding this disease and the designation of May 2021 as Lupus Awareness Month is necessary to bring this disease to the attention of a wider audience; and

WHEREAS, the designation of May 2021 as Lupus Awareness Month in Louisiana is an effort to more widely disseminate information about symptoms, hoping to bring people affected to seek treatment at the earliest possible moment or to recognize the symptoms in those with whom they frequently come into contact, in order that they can seek treatment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize May 2021 as Lupus Awareness Month in Louisiana.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE