

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 883

By Powell

A RESOLUTION to commemorate May 10, 2024, as "World Lupus Day" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, lupus is an acute and chronic lifelong 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; no organ is spared. This 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; a global health problem, lupus affects millions of young women, men, and children of all nationalities, races, ethnicities, genders, and ages worldwide; and

WHEREAS, there remains low public awareness and understanding of lupus symptoms and health effects relative to their significant impact on the lives of people with lupus; and

WHEREAS, lupus can be 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, many primary care physicians are not fully aware of all of the signs and symptoms of lupus, causing people with lupus to suffer for many years before they can obtain a diagnosis and begin treatment; and

WHEREAS, medical research efforts to find the causes of lupus, create useful tools to monitor disease activity, and develop more targeted and tolerable treatments are underfunded in comparison with diseases of similar magnitude and severity; and

WHEREAS, there is a deep, unmet need worldwide to educate and support individuals affected by lupus, including the more than 35,000 Tennesseans who suffer from the disease; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join in the commemoration of May 10, 2024, as "World Lupus Day," a day when lupus organizations around the world call attention to the need for increases in public and private sector funding for medical research on lupus, education programs for health professionals, and improved access to quality medical care for people with lupus.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.