1   # LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2   2011 GENERAL SESSION

3   STATE OF UTAH

4   **Chief Sponsor: Tim M. Cosgrove**

5   Senate Sponsor: Patricia W. Jones

6   Cosponsors: Francis D. Gibson   Marie H. Poulson

7   Patrice M. Arent   Lynn N. Hemingway   Paul Ray

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10   David Clark   Merlynn T. Newbold   Larry B. Wiley

11   Bradley M. Daw   Jim Nielson

       Janice M. Fisher

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13   **LONG TITLE**

14   **General Description:**

15   This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor designates May 2011 as

16   Lupus Awareness Month in the state of Utah.

17   **Highlighted Provisions:**

18   This resolution:

19   ‣   designates May 2011 as Lupus Awareness Month in the state of Utah and urges the

20   citizens of the state to observe this month by educating themselves on the symptoms

21   and impact of lupus and to join with the Utah Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of

22   America in supporting programs of research, education, and community service.

23   **Special Clauses:**

24   None

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26   *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

27   WHEREAS, each year, the Lupus Foundation of America designates May as National

28   Lupus Awareness Month to show support for the estimated 2,000,000 Americans who have

29   lupus;

30   WHEREAS, researchers estimate that 5,000,000 people have been diagnosed with

31   lupus or related diseases throughout the world, and that approximately 100,000 are diagnosed

32   every year including 16,000 Americans;

33   WHEREAS, more people have lupus than AIDS, cerebral palsy, sickle cell anemia, and

34   cystic fibrosis combined;

35   WHEREAS, lupus is an acute and chronic autoimmune disease in which the immune

36   system is unbalanced, causing inflammation and tissue damage to virtually every organ system

37   in the body;

38   WHEREAS, the course of the disease is unpredictable, and no two patients are alike;

39   WHEREAS, while lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age, no one is safe from

40   the disease;

41   WHEREAS, lupus can affect any part of the body, including the skin, lungs, heart,

42   kidneys, and brain;

43   WHEREAS, common symptoms are extreme fatigue, painful or swollen joints,

44   unexplained fever, skin rashes, and kidney problems;

45   WHEREAS, the disease can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages, and

46   organ failure;

47   WHEREAS, lupus varies in severity from mild cases requiring minimal intervention to

48   those in which significant and potentially fatal damage can occur to the body's vital organs;

49   WHEREAS, African Americans, Latinos, Asians, and Native Americans are more

50   likely to develop lupus, a disparity that remains unexplained;

51   WHEREAS, lupus can be particularly difficult to diagnose since its symptoms are

52   similar to those of many other illnesses;

53   WHEREAS, major gaps exist in understanding the causes and consequences of lupus;

54   WHEREAS, more than half of all people with lupus take four or more years and visit

55   three or more doctors before obtaining a correct diagnosis;

56   WHEREAS, only 50% of lupus patients lived four years after diagnosis in the 1950s;

57   WHEREAS, currently between 80% and 90% of lupus patients survive 10 years after

58   diagnosis;

59   WHEREAS, lupus deaths have increased 61% since 1980;

60   WHEREAS, 90% of those who are diagnosed live a normal life with the appropriate

61   treatments;

62   WHEREAS, there have been no new drugs approved by the United States Food and

63   Drug Administration specifically for lupus in 52 years;

64   WHEREAS, early diagnosis and proper treatments are critical to improving the quality

65   of life and survival rate of lupus sufferers;

66   WHEREAS, current treatments for the disease can have damaging side effects;

67   WHEREAS, an estimated 13,156 Utahns live with this disease; and

68   WHEREAS, increased public awareness, education, and research are key to winning the

69   battle against lupus:

70   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the

71   Governor concurring therein, designate May 2011 as Lupus Awareness Month in the state of

72   Utah and urge the citizens of the state to observe this month by educating themselves on the

73   symptoms and impact of lupus and to join with the Utah Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of

74   America in supporting programs of research, education, and community service.

75   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Utah

76   Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America, the Lupus Foundation of America, and to the

77   Utah Department of Health.