

No. R-458. Senate concurrent resolution designating May 2012 as Lupus Awareness Month in Vermont.

(S.C.R.43)

By Senator Mullin,

By Representatives Mock of Bennington and Lewis of Derby,

Whereas, the Lupus Foundation of America designates May as National Lupus Awareness Month to show support for the estimated 1.5 million Americans who have lupus, 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, and organ failure, and

Whereas, although lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age, no one is immune from lupus, and African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, and Native 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; more than one-half of all people with lupus take four or more years and visit three or more doctors before obtaining a correct diagnosis, and

Whereas, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has not approved a new drug for lupus in 50 years, and current treatments for the disease can have damaging side-effects, and

Whereas, roughly 3,090 Vermonters are affected by lupus, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates May 2012 as Lupus Awareness Month in Vermont, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the General Assembly recognizes the importance of lupus education and research, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America.