

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 965

By Sargent

A RESOLUTION to designate May as Lupus Awareness Month and May 10, 2012, as World Lupus Day in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, each year, 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 (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. The disease can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages, and organ failure; and

WHEREAS, every half hour, another person is diagnosed with lupus; and

WHEREAS, while lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age, no one is safe from lupus. African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, 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 half of all people with lupus take four or more years and visit three or more doctors before obtaining a correct diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, 35,000 Tennesseans are affected by lupus; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we hereby designate May as Lupus Awareness Month and May 10, 2012, as World Lupus Day in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge each of our citizens to observe this month by educating themselves on the symptoms and impact of lupus, and to join with the Lupus Foundation of America, Mid-South Chapter and the Lupus Foundation of America, Memphis Area Chapter in supporting programs of education, community service, and research.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.