

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 185

BY REPRESENTATIVE BRASS

A RESOLUTION

To recognize May 2018, as Lupus Awareness Month at the state capitol.

WHEREAS, systemic lupus erythematosus, commonly known as lupus, is a chronic, complex, and often life-threatening disease; and

WHEREAS, lupus is difficult to diagnose, hard to live with, and a challenge to treat; and

WHEREAS, lupus is a misunderstood, unpredictable, and mysterious autoimmune disease in which the immune system is overactive and unbalanced, thus 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; indeed, no organ is spared from the ravages of the disease; and

WHEREAS, lupus can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages, organ failure, and death; and

WHEREAS, while lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age, no one is safe from the disease; and

WHEREAS, for unexplained reasons, African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, and Native Americans are two to three times more likely to develop lupus; 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 knowledge of the causes and effects of the disease is incomplete; and

WHEREAS, more than half of all people with lupus wait four or more years and visit three or more doctors before receiving a correct diagnosis of their condition; and

WHEREAS there has been only one drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration specifically for the treatment of lupus, and current treatments for the disease can have damaging side effects; and

WHEREAS, for those living with lupus, early diagnosis, proper treatment protocols, and heightened awareness are critical for survival and the maintenance of a high quality of life; and

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 the disease.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate May 2018, as Lupus Awareness Month at the state capitol and hereby encourages citizens of Louisiana to join with the Lupus Foundation of America to support programs of research, education, and community service in support of those who suffer with lupus.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES