

By Senator Fasano

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1 Senate Resolution

2 A resolution recognizing May 2011 as "Lupus Awareness
3 Month" in Florida.

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5 WHEREAS, Lupus is an acute, chronic, and lifelong
6 autoimmune disease in which the immune system is unbalanced,
7 causing inflammation and tissue damage to virtually every organ
8 system in the body, and

9 WHEREAS, Lupus can affect any part of the body, including
10 the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys, and brain, with no organ
11 spared, and can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks,
12 miscarriages, and organ failure, and

13 WHEREAS, researchers estimate that 5 million people
14 worldwide have been diagnosed with Lupus or related diseases,
15 with about 100,000 new diagnoses each year, and

16 WHEREAS, the Lupus Foundation of America, Inc., estimates
17 that more than 1.5 million Americans live with some form of
18 Lupus, including an estimated 100,000 Floridians, and

19 WHEREAS, Lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age,
20 when they are 15 to 44 years of age, affecting all aspects of
21 their lives, with African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Asians,
22 and Native Americans two to three times more likely to develop
23 Lupus, a disparity that remains unexplained, and

24 WHEREAS, Lupus is difficult to diagnose because its
25 symptoms are similar to symptoms of other illnesses, meaning
26 that more than one-half of all people with Lupus wait 4 or more
27 years and visit three or more doctors before they are correctly
28 diagnosed, and

29 WHEREAS, early diagnosis and proper treatment are critical

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30 to improving the quality of life and survival rate of those
31 living with Lupus, and

32 WHEREAS, major gaps exist in the understanding of the
33 causes and consequences of Lupus, and increased public
34 awareness, education, and research are key to winning the battle
35 against the disease, NOW, THEREFORE,

36

37 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

38

39 That May 2011 is recognized as "Lupus Awareness Month" in
40 Florida.