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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Each year, the Lupus Society of Illinois designates May as Lupus Awareness Month to show support for the estimated 65,000 Illinois residents who have lupus; and

WHEREAS, Lupus is an acute, chronic, and 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, While lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age, no one is safe; 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

1 obtaining a correct diagnosis; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
3 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
4 declare May of 2017 as Lupus Awareness Month in the State of
5 Illinois; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That we urge citizens to observe this month by
7 educating themselves on the symptoms and impact of lupus, and
8 to join with the Lupus Society of Illinois in supporting
9 programs of research, education, and community service; and be
10 it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to the Lupus Society of Illinois.