

1 A RESOLUTION declaring that the month of May in each year, beginning in 2018,
2 shall be recognized as Kentucky Lupus Awareness Month.

3 WHEREAS, Lupus is an acute, chronic, and lifelong autoimmune disease in which
4 the immune system is unbalanced, causing inflammation and tissue damage to virtually
5 every part of the body, including the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys, and brain; and

6 WHEREAS, although the majority of cases of Lupus can be controlled with proper
7 treatment, the disease can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages, and organ
8 failure, resulting in the deaths of thousands of Americans each year; and

9 WHEREAS, more than 5,000,000 people worldwide, more than 1,500,000 people
10 in the United States, and approximately 24,000 Kentuckians are living with this chronic
11 disease for which there is no cure; and

12 WHEREAS, each year more than 100,000 individuals are newly diagnosed with
13 Lupus, 90 percent of whom are women of childbearing age; and

14 WHEREAS, African-American, Latina, Hispanic, Native American, and Asian
15 women are two to three times more likely to develop Lupus; and

16 WHEREAS, Lupus can be particularly difficult to diagnose because its symptoms
17 mimic those of many other diseases and major gaps exist in understanding the causes of
18 this disease; and

19 WHEREAS, because Lupus is difficult to diagnose, more than half of all people
20 diagnosed with Lupus suffer for four or more years and see three or more doctors before
21 receiving an accurate diagnosis; and

22 WHEREAS, increased public awareness, education, and research are key to
23 winning the battle against Lupus; and

24 WHEREAS, the Lupus Foundation of America has declared May as Lupus
25 Awareness Month;

26 NOW, THEREFORE,

27 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***

1 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

2 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives does hereby declare that the month of
3 May in each year, beginning in 2018, shall be recognized as Kentucky Lupus Awareness
4 Month to promote increased public awareness and education about the disease.

5 ➔Section 2. The House of Representatives does hereby urge local health
6 departments in Kentucky, as chief health strategist in their local communities, to
7 undertake activities including but not limited to, newspaper and radio public service
8 announcements, social media campaigns, disseminating information in poster or flyer
9 form to doctors' offices, and partnering with the Lupus Foundation of America – Mid-
10 South Chapter to promote increased public awareness and education about Lupus
11 throughout the year but especially during the month of May.

12 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
13 copy of this Resolution to Representative Melinda Gibbons Prunty for delivery.