

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Lupus is a chronic, incurable autoimmune disease
3 of unknown origin that mainly affects women of childbearing
4 age, is difficult to diagnose and causes severe, potentially
5 life-threatening organ damage; and

6 WHEREAS, The Lupus Foundation of America estimates that
7 1.4 million people in the U.S. have a form of lupus; and

8 WHEREAS, Lupus causes the immune system to attack the
9 body's healthy cells and tissues producing skin damage,
10 rheumatoid arthritis, life-threatening inflammation of
11 multiple major organs, and a potentially fatal failure of the
12 renal, circulatory or central nervous systems; and

13 WHEREAS, Symptoms include joint pain, rash, unusual loss
14 of hair, unexplained fever, low blood counts, sensitivity to
15 the sun and fingers that turn pale or purple when exposed to
16 cold; and

17 WHEREAS, According to the Lupus Foundation of America, a
18 survey of its members revealed that more than half of all
19 people with lupus suffered four or more years and were
20 examined by three or more doctors before obtaining a correct
21 diagnosis; and

22 WHEREAS, According to the Center for Disease Control and
23 Prevention, the number of lupus-related deaths between 1979
24 and 1988 increased dramatically; African American women, ages
25 45-64, experienced a 70 percent increase, the largest
26 increase among all groups in the twenty years studied;
27 therefore, be it

28 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
29 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
30 we urge the Director of the Illinois Department of Public
31 Health to implement a public education and outreach program

1 to raise awareness about the symptoms and potentially
2 life-threatening effects of the disease lupus; and be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be presented to
5 the Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health.