27-LS0099\B
Bailey
2/25/11

CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1( )

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATOR DAVIS

A RESOLUTION

Designating May of each year as Lupus Awareness Month.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS, according to the Lupus Foundation of America, lupus is an acute, chronic, and often lifelong disease affecting the immune system by causing inflammation and tissue damage; and

WHEREAS major gaps exist in the understanding of the causes and consequences of lupus; and

WHEREAS lupus can affect any body part, including the skin, lungs, heart, kidney, and brain; and

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

WHEREAS anyone may develop lupus for reasons that are not understood; and

WHEREAS lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age; and

WHEREAS women of color develop lupus at a rate two to three times the rate that Caucasians develop lupus; and

WHEREAS lupus can be particularly difficult to diagnose because its symptoms are

similar to the symptoms of other illnesses; and

WHEREAS new drugs have not been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for lupus during the last 50 years; and

WHEREAS current treatment for lupus can have damaging side effects; and

WHEREAS the Lupus Foundation of America designates National Lupus Awareness Month to show support for the estimated 1,500,000 Americans who suffer from lupus; and

WHEREAS more than 3,000 cases of lupus have been diagnosed in Alaska in patients 10 to 87 years of age; and

WHEREAS 10 members of the Lupus Foundation of America, Alaska Chapter, recently passed away from lupus;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature designates May of each year as Lupus Awareness Month; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature encourages the people of the state to observe Lupus Awareness Month with appropriate activities to increase awareness of lupus and show support for people diagnosed with the disease.