

CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1(STA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/9/11

Referred: Health and Social Services

Sponsor(s): SENATOR DAVIS

A RESOLUTION

1 **Designating May of each year as Lupus Awareness Month.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 **WHEREAS** lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age; and

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

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

1 similar to the symptoms of other illnesses; and

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

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

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

7 **WHEREAS** more than 3,000 cases of lupus have been diagnosed in Alaska in patients
8 10 to 87 years of age; and

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

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

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