

# Alaska State Legislature

Senate  
Health & Social  
Committee  
Chair  
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Senate  
Education Committee  
Vice-Chair



Legislative Council  
Vice-Chair  
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Senate  
Transportation  
Committee  
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Senate  
Labor & Commerce  
Committee

[Senator\\_Betty\\_Davis@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Betty_Davis@legis.state.ak.us)  
<http://www.aksenate.org/>

## Senator Bettye Davis

Date: April 7, 2011

To: Representative Wes Keller  
Chair, House Health & Social Services Committee

From: Senator Bettye Davis *BD*

RE: Hearing request for "SCR1 Designating May as Lupus Awareness Month"

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Representative Keller,

You currently have in your possession SCR1 – "Designating May as Lupus Awareness Month" and I am respectfully requesting this resolution be scheduled for a hearing in House Health & Social Services Committee quickly in order to designate this May as Lupus Awareness Month to show support for more 3,000 Alaskans diagnosed with lupus.

Lupus is a disease that affects the immune system by causing inflammation and tissue damage. Major gaps exist in the understanding of the causes and consequences of lupus. Lupus can affect any body part, including the skin, lungs, heart, kidney, and brain. Lupus can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages and organ failure. Lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age and women of color develop lupus at a rate two-to-three times the rate that Caucasians develop lupus. Lupus is difficult to diagnose because its symptoms are similar to symptoms of other illnesses. It's been 50 years since the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved a medication specifically for lupus and treatment for lupus can have damaging side effects.

By designating May as Lupus Awareness Month, Alaska will join other states to help increase awareness of lupus and show support for the more than 1.5 million Americans diagnosed with the disease. Please contact Celeste Hodge at 465-4906 if you have any questions relating to this request. Thank you.