

SCR

1

<TARGET><BILL>SCR 1</BILL><SUBJECT>SCR
1</SUBJECT><COMM>SSTA27</COMM></TARGET>

27-LS0099B
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

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.

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM

February 25, 2011

SUBJECT: Lupus Awareness Month; resolution or bill (CSSCR 1())
(Work Order No. 27-LS0099\B)

TO: Senator Bettye Davis
Attn: Celeste Hodge

FROM: Dennis C. Bailey *DCB*
Legislative Counsel

This draft accompanies committee substitute for SCR 1, sponsor blank, that changes the resolution to designate May of every year as Lupus Awareness Month rather than designating Lupus Awareness month for 2011.

I discussed with Celeste Hodge of your office the issue of whether the resolution could be modified to include the longer effect or if a bill would be required to make Lupus Awareness Month effective for every year. Either option is available.

A resolution is "used to reflect the will, wish, view, or decision of both houses speaking concurrently. It is used to handle the internal business of the legislature, including requesting action of executive agencies and interim committees, and fixing the time and place of joint assemblies." Uniform Rule 49(a)(3), Legislative Affairs Agency, *Manual of Legislative Drafting* at 76. The resolution essentially requests that Lupus Awareness Month be observed, but relies heavily on institutional memory. I have not found a prohibition against using a resolution to express the legislative view that Lupus Awareness Month be recognized each year. You could also consider using a new resolution each year recognizing Lupus Awareness Month.

Alternatively, a period of recognition lasting indefinitely has been designated in statute. *See, e.g.*, AS 44.12, 44.12.075, 44.12.098. Designating Lupus Awareness Month in statute would need to be implemented by a bill rather than a resolution. A resolution might simply be forgotten after the year in which it was passed, in contrast with a statute which would create an ongoing reminder for official agencies to observe Lupus Awareness Month.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

DCB:plm
11-108.plm

Enclosure

Alaska State Legislature

Interim: (May - Dec.)
716 W. 4th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: (907) 269-0144
Fax: (907) 269-0148



Session: (Jan. - May)
State Capitol, Suite 30
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-3822
Fax: (907) 465-3756
Toll free: (800) 770-3822

[Senator Bettye Davis@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Bettye_Davis@legis.state.ak.us)
<http://www.akdemocrats.org>

Senator Bettye Davis

Memorandum

To: Senator Bill Wielechowski
Chair, Senate State Affairs Committee

From: Senator Bettye Davis

Date: February 12, 2011

RE: Hearing request for **SCR 1 "Designating May 2011 as Lupus Awareness Month"**

Senator Wielechowski:

You currently have in your possession **SCR1 – "Designating May 2011 as Lupus Awareness Month."** This bill is of significant importance to me and I am requesting that a hearing be scheduled as soon as possible. Please contact Celeste Hodge of my staff at 465-4906 if you have questions.

Thank you.

Alaska State Legislature

Interim: (May - Dec.)
716 W. 4th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: (907) 269-0144
Fax: (907) 269-0148



Session: (Jan. - May)
State Capitol, Suite 30
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-3822
Fax: (907) 465-3756
Toll free: (800) 770-3822

Senator_Betty_Davis@legis.state.ak.us
<http://www.akdemocrats.org>

Senator Bettye Davis

SCR1 -27-LS0099\M - "Designating May 2011 as Lupus Awareness Month"

SPONSOR STATEMENT

SCR1 designates May 2011 as Lupus Awareness Month and encourages Alaskans to observe Lupus Awareness Month with appropriate activities that provide both lupus education and support for people diagnosed with the disease.

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. 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 the symptoms of other illnesses. New drugs have not been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration specifically for lupus during the last 50 years. Current treatment for lupus can have damaging side effects.

Each year, May is designated as Lupus Awareness Month to show support for the estimated 1.5 million Americans with lupus. More than 3,000 cases of lupus have been diagnosed in Alaska in patients 20 to 87 years of age. Ten members of the Lupus Foundation of America, Alaska Chapter recently passed away from lupus. Designating May 2011 as Lupus Awareness Month will help increase awareness of lupus and show support for those diagnosed with the disease.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR DAVIS

Introduced: 1/19/11

Referred: State Affairs, Health and Social Services

A RESOLUTION

1 **Designating May 2011 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 2011 as Lupus
12 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.

Lupus Foundation of America, Inc.

What I Need to Know About Lupus

If you have been diagnosed with lupus, you will want to know as much as you can about the disease. Lupus is a chronic, autoimmune disease that can damage any part of the body (skin, joints, and/or organs inside the body). Normally the immune system produces proteins called antibodies that protect the body from foreign invaders, such as bacteria and viruses. With lupus, the immune system cannot tell the difference between these foreign invaders and the body's healthy tissues and creates autoantibodies ("auto" means "self") that attack and destroy healthy tissue. These autoantibodies cause inflammation, pain, and damage in various parts of the body.

Lupus is a disease of flares (the symptoms worsen and you feel ill) and remissions (the symptoms improve and you feel better). Lupus can range from mild to life-threatening and should always be treated by a doctor. With good medical care, most people with lupus can lead a full life.

What Causes Lupus?

No one knows what causes lupus. However, scientists believe that hormones, genetics (heredity), and environment are all involved. Hormones regulate many of the body's functions. In particular, the sex hormone estrogen is believed to play a role in lupus. Men and women both produce estrogen, but estrogen production is much greater in females.

Understanding
LUPUS

Understanding LUPUS

Scientists have noted some common triggers among people who have lupus, including exposure to the sun, an infection, a medication taken to treat an illness, pregnancy, and giving birth.



However, that does not mean that estrogen, or any other hormone for that matter, causes lupus.

While no gene or group of genes has been proven to cause lupus, the disease does appear in certain families. And, although lupus can develop in people with no lupus in their family

What I Need to Know About Lupus

history, other autoimmune diseases may be present in some family members. Certain ethnic groups (people of African, Asian, Hispanic/Latino, Native American, or Pacific Island descent) have a greater risk of developing lupus, which may be related to genes they have in common.

Your genes may increase the chance that you will develop lupus, but scientists believe some kind of environmental trigger can set off the illness or bring on a flare, such as:

- ✧ *ultraviolet rays from the sun or from fluorescent light*
- ✧ *sulfa drugs and some tetracycline drugs, which make a person more sensitive to the sun*
- ✧ *penicillin or certain other antibiotic drugs*
- ✧ *infection*
- ✧ *a cold or a viral illness*
- ✧ *exhaustion*
- ✧ *injury*
- ✧ *emotional stress*
- ✧ *anything that causes stress to the body such as surgery, an accident, pregnancy, or giving birth*

Facts About Lupus

- ✧ Lupus is not contagious.
- ✧ Lupus is not like or related to cancer.
- ✧ Lupus is not like or related to HIV or AIDS.
- ✧ It is believed that at least 1.5 million people in the U.S. have lupus.
- ✧ More than 16,000 new cases of lupus in the U.S. are reported each year.
- ✧ Lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age.
- ✧ Women of color are 2-3 times more likely to develop lupus.
- ✧ People of all races and ethnic groups can develop lupus.

Forms of Lupus

Systemic lupus erythematosus is the most common form of lupus, and is what most people mean when they refer to "lupus." Systemic lupus can be mild or severe. Some of the more serious complications involving major organ systems are:

- *inflammation of the kidneys (lupus nephritis)*
- *an increase in blood pressure in the lungs (pulmonary hypertension)*
- *inflammation of the heart muscle (myocarditis)*
- *hardening of the arteries (coronary artery disease)*
- *inflammation of the nervous system and brain*
- *inflammation of the brain's blood vessels*

Cutaneous lupus erythematosus is limited to the skin. Although cutaneous lupus can cause many types of rashes and lesions (sores), the most common rash is raised, scaly and red, but not itchy; it is called a *discoid rash* because the areas of rash are shaped like disks, or circles.

Another common example of cutaneous lupus is a rash over the cheeks and across the bridge of the nose, known as the *butterfly rash*. Hair loss and changes in the pigment, or color, of the skin are also symptoms of cutaneous lupus.

Drug-induced lupus is a lupus-like disease caused by certain prescription drugs. The drugs most commonly connected with drug-induced lupus are hydralazine (used to treat high blood pressure or hypertension), procainamide (used to treat irregular heart rhythms), and isoniazid (used to treat tuberculosis). The lupus-like symptoms usually disappear within six months after these drugs are stopped.

Neonatal lupus is a rare condition that can affect infants of women who have lupus. At birth, the infant may have a skin rash, liver problems, or low blood cell counts, but all of these symptoms disappear completely after several months with no lasting effects. A very small percentage of infants with neonatal lupus may also have a serious heart defect; however, most infants of mothers with lupus are entirely healthy.



Another common example of cutaneous lupus is a rash over the cheeks and across the bridge of the nose, known as the butterfly rash.

PATIENT EDUCATION

Most people with lupus will be treated by a rheumatologist, who is a specialist in the diseases of joints and muscles.

What Are the Symptoms of Lupus?

Because lupus can affect so many different organs, a wide range of symptoms can occur. The most common symptoms of lupus, which are the same for females and males, are:

- ❖ extreme fatigue (tiredness)
- ❖ headaches
- ❖ painful or swollen joints
- ❖ anemia (low numbers of red blood cells)
- ❖ fever
- ❖ swelling (edema) in feet, legs, hands, and/or around the eyes
- ❖ pain in chest on deep breathing (pleurisy)

- ❖ butterfly-shaped rash across cheeks and nose
- ❖ sun- or light sensitivity (photosensitivity)
- ❖ hair loss
- ❖ blood clotting problems
- ❖ fingers turning white and/or blue when cold (Raynaud's phenomenon)
- ❖ ulcers in mouth or nose

What Kinds of Doctors Treat Lupus?

Most people with lupus will be treated by a *rheumatologist*, who is a specialist in the diseases of joints and muscles. The rashes or lesions from cutaneous lupus require treatment from a *dermatologist*, a specialist in diseases that affect the skin (including the scalp and the mouth).

Because lupus can cause damage to any part of the body, other specialists may be necessary, such as a *nephrologist*, who specializes in kidney problems; a *cardiologist*, who specializes in heart problems; a *neurologist*, who specializes in problems that affect the brain and nervous system; or a *perinatologist*, who specializes in high-risk pregnancies.



The Lupus Foundation of America (LFA) is the nation's leading nonprofit voluntary health organization dedicated to finding the causes of and cure for lupus and providing support and services to all people affected by the disease. The LFA and its network of chapters pursue this mission through programs of research, education and advocacy. Contact the LFA or a chapter that serves your area to find out how you can become involved in our mission and how we can help you. For more information call 1-800-558-0121 or visit us online at www.lupus.org.

2000 L Street, NW, Suite 710 | Washington, DC 20036 | www.lupus.org | ©2007 Lupus Foundation of America, Inc.