

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 16, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**House Resolution**

**No. 50**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Medina**

April 27, 2016

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House Resolution No. 50—Relative to Lupus Awareness Month.

1       WHEREAS, Lupus is a disease that affects more people than  
2 AIDS, cerebral palsy, sickle cell anemia, and multiple sclerosis  
3 combined. One of out every 185 Americans has lupus. Lupus is  
4 hard to diagnose, mimics other diseases, and its sufferers usually  
5 do not get treatment until they have suffered with the symptoms  
6 for many years; and

7       WHEREAS, Lupus affects approximately 1.4 million Americans,  
8 90 percent of people diagnosed with the disease are women, 80  
9 percent develop the disease between 15 and 45 years of age, and  
10 the disease is two to three times more prevalent among people of  
11 color, including African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, and Native  
12 Americans; and

13       WHEREAS, Understanding lupus will help us better understand  
14 infections in general, allergies, cancer, and even AIDS. Medical  
15 students are often told if they know lupus then they know medicine;  
16 lupus is the paradigm of autoimmunity, as lupus can affect every  
17 part of the body; and

18       WHEREAS, At least nine states have declared the month of  
19 May as Lupus Awareness Month — California, Colorado,  
20 Minnesota, North Carolina, North Dakota, New York, Oregon,  
21 Virginia, and Wisconsin; and

1 WHEREAS, Lupus is an autoimmune disease that can affect  
2 any part of the body, including internal organs, the skin, and joints.  
3 The disease also has many different symptoms and, because of  
4 that, affects each person differently. Because of its unpredictable  
5 nature, people with lupus often have many questions about the  
6 disease; and

7 WHEREAS, Each person with lupus has different symptoms  
8 that can range from mild to severe and may come and go over  
9 time. Lupus is not to be taken lightly; it can affect many parts of  
10 the body, including, but not limited to, the kidneys, lungs, central  
11 nervous system, blood vessels, blood, heart, and skin; and

12 WHEREAS, The State Department of ~~Health Care Services~~  
13 *Public Health* concluded in its 2008 Lupus Data/Statistics report  
14 that death rates from lupus increased nearly 70 percent among  
15 black women between 45 and 64 years of age. Possible reasons  
16 include an increasing incidence of systemic lupus erythematosus,  
17 later diagnosis, less access to health care, less-effective treatments,  
18 and poorer compliance with treatment recommendations. Each  
19 year during the study period, death rates were more than five times  
20 higher for women than for men; and

21 WHEREAS, Existing public information and programs about  
22 lupus in California remain inadequately disseminated and  
23 insufficient in addressing the needs of specific diverse populations  
24 and other underserved groups; and

25 WHEREAS, Educating the public and the health care community  
26 throughout the state about this devastating disease is of paramount  
27 importance and is in every respect in the public interest and to the  
28 benefit of all residents of the State of California; and

29 WHEREAS, Many other organizations strive to educate the  
30 community about lupus and how to manage the disease and also  
31 to bring more awareness through advocacy and education while  
32 providing support and resources to families that are affected by  
33 the disease; and

34 WHEREAS, Advocates around the country have joined together  
35 to advocate for lupus awareness, support, and a better future  
36 through research, diagnosis, education, and treatment; now,  
37 therefore, be it

38 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the  
39 Assembly observes the month of May 2016 as Lupus Awareness  
40 Month; and be it further

- 1     *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 2     of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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