

## HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6016

A RESOLUTION designating March 11, 2015, as Kansas Lupus Awareness Day.

WHEREAS, Lupus is an acute and chronic autoimmune disease in which the immune system effectively loses its way and, instead of warding off foreign invaders like viruses and bacteria, the immune system attacks healthy cells, causing inflammation and pain and leading to permanent damage; and

WHEREAS, Lupus can affect any part of the body, including the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys and brain; causing seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages and organ failure; and

WHEREAS, Lupus has no cure or known cause and despite the current treatment and available medications, many lupus patients have symptoms that cannot be managed well enough for patients to lead normal lives, complete their education and maintain employment; and

WHEREAS, Nine out of 10 people with lupus are women, and 80% of new cases are diagnosed among women between 15 and 44 years of age, with a majority of new cases seen in women in their late teens and early 20s; and

WHEREAS, Despite striking mostly women of childbearing age, no one is safe from lupus. African-Americans, Hispanics, Asians and Native Americans are two to three times more likely to develop lupus — a disparity that remains unexplained; and

WHEREAS, Lupus can be particularly difficult to diagnose because its symptoms are similar to those of many other illnesses, and major gaps exist in understanding the causes and consequences of lupus. Symptoms, such as fatigue, skin rashes, joint pain and hair loss mimic other conditions and appear differently in different people. More than half of all people with lupus take four or more years and visit three or more doctors before obtaining a correct diagnosis since there is no single test to diagnose lupus; and

WHEREAS, A late diagnosis of lupus contributes to significant disability and death. If left untreated, the health consequences of lupus can be devastating and potentially fatal. People with lupus suffer tremendous emotional and physical pain, one in four are permanently disabled and thousands die each year from lupus complications; and

WHEREAS, The awareness of lupus is extremely low, since only one in five Americans is aware of lupus symptoms and health effects. Young women aged 18 to 34 are least aware of lupus, yet they are the group most often affected, and nearly all Americans lack the understanding of the serious and life-threatening complications of lupus; and

WHEREAS, Recent medical advances in the treatment of lupus have been recently announced and signify the potential for an improvement in the standard of treatment for this dreaded disease: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:* That we designate March 11, 2015, as Kansas Lupus Awareness Day and we urge all Kansans to observe this day by educating themselves on the symptoms and impact of lupus, and join the Lupus Foundation of America in supporting programs of research, education and community service.

House Resolution No. 6016 was sponsored by Representative Gail Finney.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

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*Speaker of the House.*

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*Chief Clerk of the House.*