

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1145

5 By: Representatives Scott, Pilkington, Vaught, K. Ferguson, Bentley
6 By: Senator F. Love
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO CREATE LUPUS AWARENESS DAY; AND FOR OTHER
10 PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

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13 TO CREATE LUPUS AWARENESS DAY.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 1, Chapter 5, is amended to add an
20 additional section to read as follows:

21 1-5-121. Lupus Awareness Day.

22 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

23 (1) Lupus is the result of an immune system that is unbalanced
24 and can become destructive to any organ or tissue in the body and is an
25 urgent national health issue;

26 (2) Lupus is unpredictable and potentially fatal, yet no
27 satisfactory treatment exists;

28 (3) The health consequences of Lupus include heart attacks,
29 strokes, seizures, and organ failure;

30 (4) National data indicates that more than one million five
31 hundred thousand (1,500,000) Americans live with some form of lupus, with
32 lupus affecting women nine (9) times more often than men, and eighty percent
33 (80%) of newly diagnosed cases of lupus develop among women of childbearing
34 age;

35 (5) Lupus disproportionately affects women of color, is two (2)
36 to three (3) times more common among African-Americans, Hispanics and



1 Latinos, Asians, and Native Americans, and is generally more prevalent in
 2 minority populations, a health disparity that remains unexplained;

3 (6) The pain and fatigue associated with lupus can threaten
 4 one’s ability to live independently, make it difficult to maintain
 5 employment, and lead a normal life;

6 (7) One (1) in three (3) people diagnosed with lupus is disabled
 7 by the disease and consequently receives support from government programs,
 8 including Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security Disability Insurance, and
 9 Social Security Supplemental Income; and

10 (8) The estimated average annual total of direct and indirect
 11 costs for an individual with lupus is thirty-three thousand two hundred and
 12 twenty three dollars (\$33,223), and for people who have the most serious form
 13 of lupus, medical costs can greatly exceed this amount, causing a significant
 14 economic, emotional, and social burden to an entire family and society.

15 (b) The purpose of Lupus Awareness Day is to promote public and health
 16 professional awareness among State and local health and human services
 17 officials, physicians, nurses, and other healthcare providers and increase
 18 knowledge concerning the causes and consequences of lupus, the importance of
 19 early diagnosis and appropriate management, and effective treatment and
 20 management strategies.

21 (c) April 23 of each year shall be known as “Lupus Awareness Day”.

22 (d) Lupus Awareness Day shall not be a legal holiday but shall be a
 23 memorial day to be commemorated by the issuance of an appropriate
 24 proclamation by the Governor.

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 27 **APPROVED: 1/30/23**
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