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**Senate of Pennsylvania**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: All Senators**

**FROM: Senator Tim Solobay**

**DATE: April 2, 2012**

**SUBJECT: Co-Sponsorship Memo: "Lupus Awareness Month" & "World Lupus Day" in Pennsylvania**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tim Solobay', enclosed in a hand-drawn circle.

As a member of the Lupus Caucus, I plan to introduce a resolution in the near future which will recognize May 2012 as "Lupus Awareness Month" and May 10, 2012, as "World Lupus Day" in Pennsylvania.

As you may know, lupus is a chronic, inflammatory disease in which an unstable immune system begins to attack its own tissue and organs. It is estimated that lupus affects one out of every 185 people in America and over 65,000 Pennsylvanians. Although lupus can occur at any age and in either sex, 90 percent of people with lupus are women between the ages of 15 and 45, and minority women are disproportionately diagnosed with lupus compared to other demographics.

While most people experience milder cases of lupus, this disease can be fatal. To this day, the causes of lupus are unknown and there are no known permanent cures for the disease. However, with early diagnosis and therapy, 80 to 90 percent of people with lupus can enjoy a normal life span. Increased awareness, treatment availability, and improved diagnostic techniques are critical to the early diagnosis and treatment of this disease.

I hope you will join me in co-sponsoring this resolution as we continue to draw attention to this very painful disease.

If you have any questions or would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Hannah Walsh at [hwalsh@pasenate.com](mailto:hwalsh@pasenate.com) or 7-1463.