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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 373 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY SOLOBAY, MAY 5, 2014

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MAY 5, 2014

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of May 2014 as "Lupus Awareness Month" and  
2 May 10, 2014, as "World Lupus Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Every day an estimated 65,000 Pennsylvanians, 1.5  
4 million Americans and five million people worldwide struggle  
5 with the debilitating consequences of lupus, a potentially fatal  
6 autoimmune disease that can damage any part of a lupus patient's  
7 body; and

8 WHEREAS, In an autoimmune disease like lupus, the immune  
9 system effectively loses its way, and, instead of warding off  
10 foreign invaders like viruses and bacteria, the immune system  
11 attacks healthy cells, causing inflammation and pain and leading  
12 to permanent damage; and

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

18 WHEREAS, Nine out of ten people with lupus are women, and 80%

1 of new cases are diagnosed among women between 15 and 44 years  
2 of age, with the majority of new cases seen in women in their  
3 late teens and early 20s; and

4 WHEREAS, Although the disease is most frequently seen in  
5 those patients, individuals of any age or gender can develop  
6 lupus; and

7 WHEREAS, Lupus was identified as a disease in 1872, but it is  
8 an underrecognized public health problem that attracts rare  
9 attention and funding for research for a cure; and

10 WHEREAS, Lupus is often referred to as "the disease that  
11 fools," due to the patient's unawareness of its presence for  
12 extended periods of time; and

13 WHEREAS, The Lupus Foundation of America, Philadelphia Tri-  
14 State Chapter and the Lupus Foundation of Pennsylvania, three  
15 nonprofit volunteer health organizations with a history of  
16 service since the early 1970s, provide supportive services to  
17 the victims of lupus, fund medical research into the disease's  
18 causes and possible treatments and educate the public concerning  
19 the realities of lupus; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of May 2014 as  
21 "Lupus Awareness Month" and May 10, 2014, as "World Lupus Day"  
22 in Pennsylvania so that more attention and awareness may be  
23 given to the disease.