

2026 -- H 8600

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING MAY 10TH, 2026, TO BE "LUPUS DAY" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Diaz, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Kazarian, Chippendale, Slater, Hopkins, Alzate, Fogarty, and Shallcross Smith

Date Introduced: May 28, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Lupus is a chronic, severe and unpredictable autoimmune disease that can
2 cause life-threatening damage to any organ in the body by causing the immune system to attack
3 normal tissue, resulting in inflammation in various parts of the body, particularly the skin, joints,
4 blood system, and kidneys. It develops most commonly in women between the ages of 15 and 45;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Lupus is a global health problem. Every day roughly 1.5 million Americans,
7 and more than five million people worldwide, struggle with the debilitating health consequences
8 of lupus, a condition during which the immune system is compromised to the extent that it is
9 unable to distinguish the body's own cells and tissues from foreign invaders; and

10 WHEREAS, There is an urgent need to develop tools that will improve patient and
11 physician communication. Many primary care physicians are not fully aware of all the signs and
12 symptoms of lupus, causing people with lupus to suffer for many years before obtaining a
13 diagnosis and treatment; and

14 WHEREAS, There remains low public awareness and understanding of lupus symptoms.
15 People with lupus need access to medical specialists and high-quality multidisciplinary care
16 including emotional, psychological, and social care; and

17 WHEREAS, World Lupus Day was first celebrated in the United States in 2004, with the
18 issuance of the first World Lupus Day Proclamation, which identified this historic day and was
19 aimed at raising awareness of the plight and the treatment requirements of millions of people;

1 now, therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
3 proclaims May 10th of 2026, to be "Lupus Day" in our State and joins advocates from around the
4 globe in calling for greater awareness of lupus and its consequences; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That this House hereby urges and supports enhanced charitable donations
6 to the Lupus Foundation of America and all organizations engaged in lupus research and patient
7 services, and in this noble enterprise on behalf of all who are affected by lupus; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
9 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the LUPUS Foundation of America,
10 Connecticut Chapter, Inc.

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