

Rep. Townsend offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 151.

A resolution to declare May 2013 as Lupus Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Each year, the Lupus Agencies of Michigan designate May as Lupus Awareness Month to show support for the 1.5 million Americans and 5 million people worldwide who suffer from the often debilitating effects of lupus, a chronic autoimmune disease that can cause severe damage to the tissue and organs in the body and in some cases, death; and

Whereas, Each year thousands of people are newly diagnosed with lupus, the great majority of whom are young people in the prime of their lives and 90 percent of whom are women; and

Whereas, Lupus is most prevalent among African-Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and Asians. Tragically, thousands of people die from lupus each year because a cure remains elusive; and

Whereas, There is a continued need for increased public and professional awareness of Lupus; and

Whereas, Medical research efforts into lupus and the discovery of safer, more effective treatments for lupus patients are underfunded in comparison with diseases of comparable magnitude and severity; and

Whereas, Increasing community awareness and focusing public attention on lupus and its devastating impact on patients' lives will provide hope for a better future for those affected; and

Whereas, The Lupus Agencies of Michigan are dedicated to "improving the quality of life for individuals with lupus and their loved ones by providing education, support and outreach services, and promoting programs of awareness, advocacy, and research"; and

Whereas, This legislative body recognizes the needs of those chronically ill people who are living with lupus and urges all citizens to support the search for a cure and assist those individuals and families who deal with this devastating disease on a daily basis; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare May 2013 as Lupus Awareness Month in the state of Michigan; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Rick Snyder, the Michigan Department of Community Health and the Lupus Agencies of Michigan.