

State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-SIXTH SESSION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2011

922S0749

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. **1005**

Introduced by: Representative Rausch and Senators Rave and Peters

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Expressing support for raising public awareness of the
2 disease of lupus.

3 WHEREAS, Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, commonly known as lupus, is an acute,
4 chronic, complex, and often life-threatening autoimmune disease; and

5 WHEREAS, lupus can affect virtually every organ system in the body, including the skin,
6 lungs, heart, kidneys, and brain. The disease can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks,
7 miscarriages, and organ failure; and

8 WHEREAS, the Lupus Foundation of America estimates that more than 1.5 million
9 Americans live with some form of lupus, including nearly four thousand people in South
10 Dakota; and

11 WHEREAS, while lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age, no one is safe from the
12 disease. Women of color develop lupus at a rate of two to three times the rate of Caucasians -
13 a disparity that remains unexplained; and

14 WHEREAS, lupus can be particularly difficult to diagnose because its symptoms are similar
15 to those of many other illnesses and major gaps exist in understanding the causes and



1 consequences of lupus; and

2 WHEREAS, more than half of all people with lupus take four or more years and visit three
3 or more doctors before obtaining a correct diagnosis; and

4 WHEREAS, early diagnosis and proper treatments are critical to the improvement of the
5 quality of life and survival rate of those living with lupus; and

6 WHEREAS, lupus impacts more than just the life of the patient; it affects their family,
7 friends, coworkers, employers, and the community; and

8 WHEREAS, increased public awareness, education, and research are key to winning the
9 battle against lupus:

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Eighty-
11 sixth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the South
12 Dakota Legislature strongly urges all citizens of South Dakota to educate themselves on the
13 symptoms and impact of lupus and join with lupus advocacy groups such as the Lupus
14 Foundation of American in supporting programs of research, education, and community service.