

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 239

Approved May 22, 2023

WHEREAS, Lupus is a chronic disease that can cause inflammation and pain in any part of your body. It's an autoimmune disease, which means that your immune system attacks healthy tissue instead; and

WHEREAS, The Lupus Foundation of America estimates that 1.5 million Americans, and at least five million people worldwide, have a form of lupus; and

WHEREAS, Lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age. However, men, children, and teenagers develop lupus, too; and

WHEREAS, People with lupus can experience significant symptoms, such as pain, extreme fatigue, hair loss, cognitive issues, and physical impairments that affect every facet of their lives. Many suffer from cardiovascular disease, strokes, disfiguring rashes, and painful joints. For others, there may be no visible symptoms; and

WHEREAS, Lupus is two to three times more prevalent among African American, Hispanic/Latina, Asian American, Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and other Pacific Islander women than among White women; and

WHEREAS, A 2016 study published in Nature Reviews Rheumatology found that the average annual direct healthcare cost of a person with lupus was \$33,223; and

WHEREAS, The study also determined that the average annual productivity cost (lost hours of economic productivity due to lupus) was between \$1,252 and \$20,046; and

WHEREAS, The average annual total costs for people with lupus combining direct and indirect costs can be as high as \$50,000; and

WHEREAS, A Lupus Foundation of America survey found 55 percent of lupus patients reported a complete or partial loss of their income because they no longer are able to work full time due to complications of lupus.; and

WHEREAS, There is currently no known cure for lupus, and the cause of the disease is still unknown, making research and education critical to improving diagnosis, treatment, and care for individuals living with lupus; and

WHEREAS, Lupus Awareness Month provides an opportunity to raise awareness of the impact of lupus on individuals and families, promote early diagnosis and access to care, and support ongoing research efforts to better understand and treat the disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council hereby recognizes the month of May as Lupus Awareness Month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Mayor of Providence, and the Lupus Foundation of America.

IN CITY COUNCIL
MAY 18 2023

READ AND PASSED

RACHEL W. MILLER, PRESIDENT

CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

Burt A. Smiley
Mayor

Date: 5/22/2023