

HB 1665 -- LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

SPONSOR: Jones (63)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Urban Issues by a vote of 6 to 0.

This bill designates the month of May each year as "Lupus Awareness Month" in Missouri to be observed by educating individuals on the symptoms and impact of lupus and to support programs of research, education, and community service.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that lupus affects approximately 30,000 Missourians and strikes women and African-Americans disproportionately. It frequently takes years to get a correct diagnosis because its symptoms are similar to several other diseases.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Jones (63); LaKricia Cox, Lupus Foundation of America, Heartland Chapter; and Jennifer Jackson.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.