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H.B. 538
135th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Reported by House Public Health Policy

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Brown and Upchurch

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DETAILED ANALYSIS

Designation	Lupus Awareness Month
Date	The month of May

The bill designates the month of May as “Lupus Awareness Month” in recognition of the following:

- Systemic lupus erythematosus, or lupus, is a chronic, complex, and often disabling autoimmune disorder in which the body’s immune system attacks the body’s own cells, tissues, and organs.
- Lupus can affect many parts of the body, including the joints, skin, brain, heart, lungs, and kidneys.
- Lupus nephritis is a serious manifestation of lupus that causes inflammation of the kidneys.
- Lupus nephritis can lead to irreversible kidney damage or even kidney failure, which may require dialysis or a transplant.
- Prompt diagnosis and treatment are crucial for patients with lupus and lupus nephritis.
- Lupus and lupus nephritis are more common in and disproportionately impact women and patients of color.
- Too many lupus and lupus nephritis patients, and especially marginalized patients, in the United States face harmful delays in diagnosis and treatment of these conditions.
- The Department of Health’s Lupus Education and Awareness Program.¹

¹ R.C. 5.56; R.C. 3701.77, not in the bill.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	05-15-24
Reported, H. Public Health Policy	12-04-24
