



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

---

**File #:** 24-3149, **Version:** 1

---

### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **RESOLUTION REQUESTING A LUPUS DISEASE PUBLIC HEARING**

**WHEREAS**, in 1851 Lupus was defined as an autoimmune disease. Documented research leads to the advancement of the understanding and diagnosis of lupus as an autoimmune disease, and;

**WHEREAS**, there is no known cause of lupus and no single test to diagnose the disease, and;

**WHEREAS**, there are 1.5 million people in the United States living with lupus, and;

**WHEREAS**, the history of lupus, although dating back at least to the Middle Ages, has experienced an explosion in this century, especially during the modern era over the past 60 years, and;

**WHEREAS**, women ages 15 to 44 of certain racial or ethnic groups including people who are African American, Asian American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American, or Pacific Islander People who have a family member with lupus or another autoimmune disease are gravely impacted, and;

**WHEREAS**, African-American women are three times more likely to get lupus than White women. African-American and Hispanic women usually get lupus at a younger age and have more severe symptoms, including kidney problems, than women of other groups. African-American women with lupus also have more problems with seizures, strokes, and dangerous swelling of the heart.

**WHEREAS**, it is believed that 10-15 percent of people with lupus will die prematurely due to complications of lupus, and;

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that there 16,000 new cases per year, and;

**WHEREAS**, The Lupus Foundation of American identified 20 investigational drugs in various phases of research to determine their effectiveness in people with lupus, and;

**WHEREAS**, nearly 20 percent of people with lupus will have a parent or sibling who already has lupus or may develop lupus, and;

**WHEREAS**, about 5 percent of the children born to individuals with lupus will develop the illness, and;

**WHEREAS**, lupus is a disease that strikes predominantly young women in the reproductive years which makes pregnancy both a practical and a research issue, and;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that this resolution be referred to the Health and Hospitals Committee for further discussion on research, statistics, funding opportunities, county-wide awareness, advocacy, medical trials, treatment options, manage care, and other means to reduce the mortality rate of lupus, and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a request for and a public hearing with the Health and Hospitals Committee with healthcare professionals, doctors, scientists, health educators, experts from both Cook County Health and Cook County and Illinois Department of Public Health, local lupus awareness organizations, advocates and those living with lupus to

work together to present future legislation.