

Whereas, lupus is more prevalent among women of childbearing age and African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Asians, and Native Americans are two to three times more likely to develop lupus - a disparity that remains unexplained.

Whereas, lupus can be particularly difficult to diagnose because its symptoms are similar to those of many other illnesses, and major gaps exist in understanding the causes and consequences of lupus. More than half of all people with lupus take four or more years, and visit three or more doctors, before obtaining a correct diagnosis.

Whereas, there has been only one new drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration specifically for lupus in 56 years; current treatments for the disease can have damaging side effects.

Whereas, 73% of Americans between the ages 18-34 have either not heard about lupus or know little or nothing about lupus beyond the name.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of Baltimore, that the Council recognizes May as Lupus Awareness Month.

And be it further resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Health Commissioner, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison.