

3072--A

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

January 22, 2015

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Introduced by M. of A. PEOPLES-STOKES, BRINDISI, TITONE, THIELE, McDONALD -- read once and referred to the Committee on Health -- reported and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to the lupus education and outreach program

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature hereby finds the  
2     following:  
3     (a) Lupus is a serious, complex, debilitating autoimmune disease that  
4     can cause inflammation and tissue damage to virtually any organ system  
5     in the body, including the skin, joints, other connective tissue, blood  
6     and blood vessels, heart, lungs, kidney, and brain.  
7     (b) Lupus research estimates that approximately one and a half to two  
8     million Americans live with some form of lupus; lupus affects women nine  
9     times more often than men and eighty percent of newly diagnosed cases of  
10    lupus develop among women of childbearing age.  
11    (c) Lupus disproportionately affects women of color -- it is two to  
12    three times more common among African-Americans, Hispanics, Asians and  
13    Native Americans and is generally more prevalent in minority populations  
14    -- a health disparity that remains unexplained. According to the Centers  
15    for Disease Control and Prevention the rate of lupus mortality has  
16    increased since the late 1970s and is higher among older African-American women.  
17    (d) No new drugs have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration specifically for lupus in nearly forty years and while current treatments for the disease can be effective, they can lead to damaging side effects.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 (e) The pain and fatigue associated with lupus can threaten people's  
2 ability to live independently, make it difficult to maintain employment  
3 and lead normal lives, and one in five people with lupus is disabled by  
4 the disease, and consequently receives support from government programs,  
5 including Medicare, Medicaid, social security disability, and social  
6 security supplemental income.

7 (f) The estimated average annual cost of medical treatment for an  
8 individual with lupus can range between ten thousand dollars and thirty  
9 thousand dollars; for people who have the most serious form of lupus,  
10 medical costs can greatly exceed this amount, causing a significant  
11 economic, emotional and social burden to the entire family and society.

12 (g) More than half of the people with lupus suffer four or more years  
13 and visit three or more physicians before obtaining a diagnosis of  
14 lupus; early diagnosis of and commencement of treatment for lupus can  
15 prevent or reduce serious organ damage, disability, and death.

16 (h) Despite the magnitude of lupus and its impact on individuals and  
17 families, health professional and public understanding of lupus remains  
18 low; only one of five Americans can provide even basic information about  
19 lupus, and awareness of lupus is lowest among adults ages eighteen to  
20 thirty-four -- the age group most likely to develop symptoms of lupus.

21 (i) Lupus is a significant national health issue that deserves a  
22 comprehensive and coordinated response by state and federal governments  
23 with involvement of the health care provider, patient, and public health  
24 communities.

25 S 2. Subdivision 1 of section 207 of the public health law is amended  
26 by adding a new paragraph (m) to read as follows:

27 (M) LUPUS, A DEBILITATING AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE THAT CAN CAUSE INFLAMMA-  
28 TION AND TISSUE DAMAGE TO VIRTUALLY ANY ORGAN SYSTEM IN THE BODY,  
29 INCLUDING THE SKIN, JOINTS, OTHER CONNECTIVE TISSUE, BLOOD AND BLOOD  
30 VESSELS, HEART, LUNG, KIDNEY AND BRAIN, AND WHICH AFFECTS WOMEN, PARTIC-  
31 ULARLY WOMEN OF COLOR, IN A DISPROPORTIONATE MANNER; PROVIDED THAT THE  
32 PROGRAM SHALL INCLUDE AN ADVISORY COUNCIL UNDER THIS SECTION THAT SHALL  
33 INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF PEOPLE WITH LUPUS AND THEIR FAMILIES AND  
34 HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS WHO SPECIALIZE IN TREATING LUPUS, AMONG OTHERS.

35 S 3. Subdivision 7 of section 207 of the public health law, as amended  
36 by section 16 of part A of chapter 109 of the laws of 2010, is amended  
37 to read as follows:

38 7. In addition to state funds appropriated for programs under this  
39 section, the commissioner may accept grants from public or private  
40 sources for these programs. The commissioner, in administering this  
41 section, shall seek to coordinate the department's programs with other  
42 public and private programs, and may undertake joint or cooperative  
43 programs with other public or private entities, INCLUDING MAKING GRANTS  
44 (WITHIN AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED THEREFOR AND CONSISTENT WITH APPLICABLE  
45 LAW) TO PUBLIC OR NOT-FOR-PROFIT ENTITIES.

46 S 4. This act shall take effect immediately.