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[Representative Jim Moran \(D-VA\)](#)

*The Congressional Lupus Caucus was established to provide a forum for members of Congress and their staff to actively engage in a dialogue to improve the quality of life for people with lupus and their caregivers through supporting the advancement of lupus research and increasing awareness of lupus among the public and health professionals.*

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### **Latest News:**

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### **Upcoming Events:**

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**Resources:**

[Lupus Foundation of America](#)

[Lupus Research Institute](#)

[Alliance for Lupus Research](#)

[Lupus Foundation of Northern California](#)

[S.L.E. Lupus Foundation](#)

**Facts and Figures:**

- Definition - Lupus is an acute and chronic (lifelong) autoimmune disease in which the immune system is unbalanced, causing inflammation and tissue damage to virtually any organ system in the body.
- Lupus can affect any part of the body, including the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys, and brain. No organ is spared. The disease can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages, and organ failure.
- An estimated 1.5 million Americans have a form of lupus.
- 80% of new cases are diagnosed in women between ages of 15 and 44 – striking people in their prime.
- 90% of people with lupus are women and yet 80% of women know little or nothing about lupus.

- Lupus is two to three times more common among African Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Native Americans.
- An accurate diagnosis of lupus can take as long as four or more years and visits to three or more physicians.
- Lupus annually costs the nation an estimated \$31.4 billion in direct and indirect expenditures.

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