

---

**U.S. Representative**

***John Spratt***

South Carolina ■ 5th District

---

**News Release**

---

October 20, 2000, For Immediate Release

Contact: Chuck Fant, 202-225-5501

**Spratt's Bill to Strengthen Lupus Research Clears House**

**WASHINGTON — A bill backed by U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) to bolster federal efforts to find a cure for lupus erythematosus recently passed the U.S. House of Representatives.**

“I understand how debilitating lupus can be,” said Spratt, “and I continually support efforts in Congress to fund research and services for people suffering from this disease.”

The bill Spratt is cosponsoring would strengthen and expand the federal search for a cure and provide grants to support care services for lupus patients and their families.

Lupus means “wolf.” Erythematosus means “redness.” In 1851, doctors coined this name for the disease because they thought the facial rash that frequently accompanies lupus looked like the bite of a wolf. Lupus can be categorized into three groups: discoid lupus erythematosus, systemic lupus erythematosus, and drug-induced systemic lupus erythematosus.

Discoid lupus affects the skin.

Systemic lupus attacks multiple systems in the body which may include: the skin, joints, lungs, blood, blood vessels, heart, kidneys, liver, brain and the nervous system. African Americans and Hispanics have a higher frequency of systemic lupus than do Caucasians.

Drug-induced lupus may develop after taking certain prescription medications. Symptoms generally disappear, within weeks to months, after the drug is discontinued.

Spratt said Senate action on the bill is pending.

###