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SARCOMA AWARENESS MONTH RESOLUTION PASSES THE SENATE BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Members of the Senate Support Sarcoma Patients and the Need for Sarcoma Awareness

DAMASCUS, Md. – September 2021 – The Sarcoma Foundation of America (SFA), the largest funder of private research in the sarcoma community and an organization dedicated to raising sarcoma awareness, commends the Senate for passing S.Res.319, a resolution highlighting sarcoma awareness and supporting sarcoma patients.

“SFA would like to especially thank Senator Johnson (R-WI) for his leadership on this resolution for many years,” said Brand Felser, Chief Executive Officer. “This resolution is a top priority for SFA and the sarcoma community.”

Due to the rarity of sarcoma cancer and limited public knowledge of the disease, sarcoma has been referred to as the “forgotten cancer.” This lack of awareness and understanding creates obstacles in efforts to foster research and drug development. SFA and the sarcoma community works tirelessly to raise more awareness in order to highlight the extraordinary challenges that sarcoma patients face and to demonstrate the need for new sarcoma therapies.

In an effort to generate this increased attention, the sarcoma community united to designate July as Sarcoma Awareness Month. However, despite community recognition of Sarcoma Awareness Month, there had not been an official designation by the Senate. The official recognition of July as Sarcoma Awareness Month can aide in raising awareness about sarcoma and this increased awareness can lead to earlier diagnoses and better treatment options.

For years, SFA worked with advocate Brendan Locke from Wisconsin to advance a resolution in the Senate. “Brendan was instrumental in working with Senator Johnson’s office to get this resolution passed,” said Felser. “This would not have happened without Brendan’s perseverance and dedication to growing sarcoma awareness in memory of his wife Melissa and for his two young sons.”

“It’s been over 2,000 days since a doctor told Melissa she had synovial sarcoma. It’s been over 1,400 days since her fight ended and my life and our kids’ lives changed in a way I never thought would happen,” said Brendan Locke. “Having July be recognized on a national level as Sarcoma Awareness Month, puts it on the same platform as October (breast cancer) and March (colon cancer). This recognition and platform allows so many hospitals, doctors, and patients to work on continuing to find better treatments and work towards a cure for a cancer that has been all but gone unrecognized or forgotten. I did not do this for myself. I wanted to make a statement against sarcoma after it took so much. This is just the beginning of a better way of life for patients, caregivers, and loved-ones.”

Sarcoma is a rare cancer with more than 16,000 new cases and nearly 7,000 deaths each year in the United States and accounts for approximately 1% of adult cancers and 20% of pediatric cancers. At any one time, more than 50,000 patients and their families are struggling with sarcoma. It is sometimes curable by surgery (about 20 percent of cases) or by surgery with chemotherapy and/or radiation (cure rate of 50-55 percent), but about half the time they are totally resistant to all of these approaches. There are 50 validated histologic subtypes of sarcoma, with the potential for the existence of over 100

subtypes, and for most all subtypes, there is no FDA approved therapy. The lack of awareness and research funding create a delay to diagnosis for most patients. About 15% of sarcomas are found at a metastatic stage and patients diagnosed with metastatic sarcoma have only a 16% five-year survival rate.

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About the Sarcoma Foundation of America

The Sarcoma Foundation of America (SFA), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization, is an advocate for increased research to find new and better therapies with which to treat patients with sarcoma. The organization raises money to privately fund grants for sarcoma researchers and conducts education and advocacy efforts on behalf of sarcoma patients. Since its inception in 2000, the Sarcoma Foundation of America has invested over \$13 million in research; including over 200 sarcoma research grants, eight American Society of Clinical Oncologists (ASCO) Young Investigator Awards, two Advanced Clinical Research Awards (ASCO) Conquer Cancer Foundation Awards, and two ASCO Conquer Cancer Foundation Career Development Awards. For more information, please visit www.curesarcoma.org.