Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Senator’s Name),

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I am a (sarcoidosis patient and) volunteer for the Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research. As one of your constituents in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(HOME STATE), I hope you will co-sponsor Senator Schumer’s (NY-D) resolution to nationally recognize April as Sarcoidosis Awareness Month.

(Include short story about sarcoidosis and how it affects your lives/the lives of other individuals in your home state. You may also want to mention whether you are a patient associated with a support group, local organization, or hospital in your home state which cares about sarcoidosis to help them understand the extent of public support for this resolution.)

**What is Sarcoidosis?**
Sarcoidosis (pronounced SAR-COY-DOE-SIS) is an inflammatory disease that can affect almost any organ in the body. It occurs when a person’s immune system overreacts resulting in the formation of granulomas, microscopic clumps of inflammatory cells. When too many of these clumps form in an organ they can interfere with how that organ functions. Disease presentation and severity varies widely from patient to patient. Although anyone can develop sarcoidosis, it is most common among people between the ages of 20 and 40, and more severe and more likely to be chronic in African Americans in the United States. The cause of sarcoidosis is currently unknown.

**How will the resolution help constituents in the state of (STATE NAME) \_?**
More awareness and research is desperately needed to determine the cause, prevalence, and best treatment protocol for sarcoidosis. Although anyone can develop sarcoidosis, it is estimated to affect 200,000 Americans and is most common among people between the ages of 20 and 40. Due to lack of awareness among the public and even physicians, many patients go untreated or misdiagnosed for years. In fact, the average time to diagnosis is 7 years.

For more information, please visit www.stopsarcoidosis.org . To discuss the resolution with a member of Senator Schumer’s office, please contact Morgan Brand at Morgan\_Brand@schumer.senate.gov or (202) 224-6542.

I appreciate your consideration. and look forward to working with your office on this important endeavor.

All the best,

(Name)
(Contact Information)