



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### LUPUS AWARENESS DAY

- WHEREAS:** Lupus is an acute and chronic (lifelong) autoimmune disease in which the immune system is unbalanced, causing inflammation and tissue damage to virtually every organ system in the body; and
- WHEREAS:** Lupus can affect any part of the body, including the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys, and brain. No organ is spared. This disease can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages, and organ failure; and
- WHEREAS:** Lupus can be particularly difficult to diagnose because its symptoms are like those of many other illnesses, and major gaps exist in understanding the causes and consequences of lupus. More than half of all people with lupus take four or more years and visit three or more doctors before obtaining a correct diagnosis; and
- WHEREAS:** The Georgia Council on Lupus Education and Advocacy was established to investigate the level of education and awareness of lupus across the state. The Council has developed a statewide action plan and created a multidisciplinary collaborative that will launch statewide lupus initiatives to increase knowledge, educate healthcare providers, consumers, and legislators, address early diagnosis, access to care and health disparities in lupus; and
- WHEREAS:** Approximately 55,000 Georgians are affected by Lupus. On Lupus Awareness Day, the State of Georgia seeks educate the general public and to support individuals suffering with lupus and to improve research to find a cure; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 20, 2024, as LUPUS AWARENESS DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.



*B. Kemp*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Laura M. Curry*  
CHIEF OF STAFF