



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

LUPUS ADVOCACY DAY

- WHEREAS:** Each year, the Georgia Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America designates February to promote Lupus Advocacy to show support for the estimated 55,000 Georgians who have lupus; and
- WHEREAS:** Lupus is an acute and chronic 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. This disease can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages, and organ failure; and
- WHEREAS:** While lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age, no one is safe from lupus. African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Asians, and Native Americans are two to three times more likely to develop lupus – a disparity that remains unexplained; and
- WHEREAS:** Lupus can be particularly difficult to diagnose because its symptoms are similar to 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:** It is important to educate and support individuals suffering with lupus, and help secure funding for lupus research to find a cure; and
- WHEREAS:** The Georgia Council on Lupus Education and Advocacy was established to investigate the level of education and advocacy of lupus across the state; and
- WHEREAS:** The Council has developed a Statewide Action Plan and will launch statewide lupus initiatives to increase knowledge, educate healthcare providers, consumers and legislators, and address early diagnosis, access to care, and health disparities in lupus; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 27, 2019, as LUPUS ADVOCACY DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 25th day of February in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Nineteen.



B. Kemp
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Timothy K. Fleming
CHIEF OF STAFF