



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 a day in February to promote lupus awareness and advocacy; and
- WHEREAS:** Lupus is an acute and chronic autoimmune disease in which the immune system becomes hyperactive, causing inflammation and tissue damage to almost every part of the body; and
- WHEREAS:** Lupus can affect virtually any organ, including the brain, lungs, skin, kidneys, and heart, and it can cause heart attacks, seizures, strokes, miscarriages, and organ failure; and
- WHEREAS:** Lupus is two to three times more prevalent in African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian, Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and other Pacific Islander women than among Caucasian women; and
- WHEREAS:** Approximately 1.5 million Americans are affected by lupus, including 55,000 Georgians; and
- WHEREAS:** Lupus is often difficult to diagnose because its symptoms are similar to other ailments, and major gaps still exist in understanding the causes and consequences of the disease. More than half of all people diagnosed with lupus spend at least four years – and visit three or more doctors – before receiving the correct diagnosis; and
- WHEREAS:** It is important to educate and support individuals who suffer from lupus and work to secure funding for further research to find new treatments and a cure. The Georgia Council on Lupus Education and Awareness (GCLEA) was established to improve public education, access to resources, research, awareness, and advocacy across our state; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 20, 2020 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 17<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty.



*B. Kemp*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Trinity K. Fleming*

CHIEF OF STAFF