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 one day during the legislative session 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. No organ is spared. 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; now

THEREFORE: I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 11, 2021, 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 24th day of February in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-One.

[Signature]
GOVERNOR

[Signature]
CHIEF OF STAFF