



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 (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:** 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:** Approximately 55,000 Georgians are affected by Lupus; and
- WHEREAS:** The Georgia Council on Lupus Education and Awareness was established to investigate the level of education and awareness of lupus across the state; and
- WHEREAS:** 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:** It is important to educate and support individuals suffering with lupus, and help secure funding for lupus research to find a cure, we are working to help raise public Advocacy of this significant health issue; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 19, 2026, 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 27<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.



*B. Kemp*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Lauren M. Curry*

CHIEF OF STAFF