



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### LUPUS MATTERS DAY

- WHEREAS:** Lupus is an unpredictable and misunderstood autoimmune disease that ravages different parts of the body. It is difficult to diagnose, hard to live with, and a challenge to treat; and
- WHEREAS:** Lupus can affect any part of the body, including the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys, and brain. No organ is spared. The disease can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages, and organ failure; 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:** 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:** 55,000 citizens diagnosed in Georgia are affected by lupus; and
- WHEREAS:** Each year, the Lupus Matters Corporation designates a day in May as National Lupus Matters Day to show support for the estimated 1.5 million Americans who have lupus; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 14, 2019, as LUPUS MATTERS DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Nineteen.



*B. Kemp*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Timothy K. Fleming*

CHIEF OF STAFF