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 35,000 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 23rd day of February in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Nineteen.

[Signature]
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

[Signature]
CHIEF OF STAFF