



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

2018

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, each year, the Lupus Foundation of America designates May as National Lupus Awareness Month to show support for the estimated 1.5 million Americans who have lupus; and

WHEREAS, lupus is an unpredictable and misunderstood autoimmune disease that can affect different parts of the body; it is difficult to diagnose and challenging to treat; and

WHEREAS, lupus can affect any part of the body, including the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys, and brain; 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 most frequently affects women of childbearing age, men, children, and teenagers can also develop the disease; 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, the State of North Carolina encourages people to educate themselves on the symptoms and impact of lupus, and to support programs of research, education, and advocacy for those and their families in our communities who are affected by this disease;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May, 2018, as “**LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH**” in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-sixth day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.