



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

## **AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH**

**2023**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

### **A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, autoimmune diseases are a family of over 100 incurable disorders – the most prevalent of which include lupus erythematosus, sarcoidosis and Sjogren’s syndrome, multiple sclerosis, Celiac disease, Hashimoto thyroiditis, Type I diabetes, and inflammatory bowel disease – arising from abnormal immune responses toward healthy body parts; and

**WHEREAS**, autoimmune diseases affect over 50 million Americans and constitute one of the top causes of death nationwide, including being a top ten cause of death among women of all ages; and

**WHEREAS**, the causes of most autoimmune diseases are still largely unknown and varied, and are thought to include various hereditary and environmental risk factors; and

**WHEREAS**, there are no discovered cures for autoimmune diseases, with most existing treatments focusing on pain and symptom management; and

**WHEREAS**, fewer than 13 percent of Americans can name a single autoimmune disease, and nearly half of those afflicted spend years waiting to be diagnosed due to a lack of awareness surrounding symptoms and causes; and

**WHEREAS**, the autoimmune diseases community nationwide and across North Carolina is dedicated to improving education surrounding these diseases to promote research, improved patient care and outcomes, and to ultimately discover a cure;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim March, 2023, as “**AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE 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 twentieth day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-three and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-seventh.