



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

SCLERODERMA AWARENESS MONTH

AND

SCLERODERMA AWARENESS DAY

2024

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, scleroderma is a chronic connective tissue disease which effects an estimated 10,000 people in North Carolina and 300,000 people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the word *scleroderma* comes from two Greek words – *sclero* meaning hard, and *derma* meaning skin; in patients with scleroderma, the immune system becomes overactive and attacks its own tissues through an overproduction of collagen; and

WHEREAS, scleroderma is a highly individualized disease and symptoms range from very mild to life-threatening; it can develop and be found in every age group from infants to the elderly, but is found most frequently in those ages 25 to 55; and

WHEREAS, scleroderma can cause thickening and tightening of the skin, as well as serious damage to internal organs, including the lungs, heart, kidneys, esophagus, and gastrointestinal tract; and

WHEREAS, while there is not yet a cure for this disease, prompt and proper diagnosis and treatment by qualified physicians can minimize the symptoms of scleroderma and lessen the chance for irreversible damage; and

WHEREAS, there are five National Scleroderma Foundation support groups in the state of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the National Scleroderma Foundation's mission is to advance medical research, promote disease awareness, and provide support and education to people with scleroderma, their families, and support networks;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim June, 2024, as “**SCLERODERMA AWARENESS MONTH**” and June 29, 2024, as “**SCLERODERMA AWARENESS DAY**” 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-ninth day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-eighth.