

LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

Whereas, each year, the Lupus Society of Illinois designates May as Lupus Awareness Month to show support for the Illinois residents living with lupus and the thousands more who care for them.

Whereas systemic lupus erythematosus (lupus) happens when the body's defense system attacks healthy cells and tissues, instead of viruses and bacteria. This can damage many parts of the body such as the joints, skin, kidneys, heart, lungs, blood vessels and brain.

Whereas anyone can get lupus, but it most often affects women.

Whereas lupus is also more common among African American, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American women.

Whereas Symptoms of lupus vary, and they may come and go. The times when a person is having symptoms are called flares, which can range from mild to severe. New symptoms may appear at any time.

Whereas some of the most common symptoms of lupus are pain or swelling in the joints, muscle pain, fever with no known cause, red rashes, most often on the face, chest pain when taking a deep breath, hair loss, pale or purple fingers or toes, sensitivity to the sun, swelling in the legs or around the eyes, mouth sores swollen glands and feeling very tired.

Whereas a 2010 study concluded that both direct health care costs and costs associated with changes in work productivity are substantial and both represent important contributors to the total costs associated with lupus.

Now, therefore, I, (government official) do hereby proclaim the month of May as Lupus Awareness Month in (Region), Illinois.

I urge each of our citizens to observe this month by educating themselves on the symptoms and impact of lupus, and to join with the Lupus Society of Illinois in supporting programs of research, education, and community service.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand the ##th day May in the year 2020