

## 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 immune system, which normally helps protect the body from infection and disease, attacks its own tissues. This attack causes inflammation and, in some cases, permanent tissue damage.

Whereas lupus causes 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; however, women get the disease more often than men do. It is more common in African Americans and people of American Indian and Asian descent than in white people. Men, African Americans, and Chinese and Hispanic people are also more likely to have serious organ system involvement.

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.

Now, therefore, I, (government official) do hereby proclaim the month of May as Lupus Awareness Month in 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 2021