

STATE OF OKLAHOMA



FILED

MAY 14 2013

OKLAHOMA SECRETARY
OF STATE

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

Whereas, each year the Lupus Foundation of America designates May as National Lupus Awareness Month to show support for the estimated 2 million Americans, including approximately 50,000 Oklahomans, who have lupus; and

Whereas, more women die each year from lupus-related symptoms than of breast cancer; and medical research efforts into lupus and the discovery of safer, more effective treatments for lupus patients are underfunded in comparison with diseases of comparable magnitude and severity; and

Whereas, lupus is an acute and chronic autoimmune disease in which the immune system is unbalanced, causing inflammation and tissue damage to virtually every organ system in the body; and

Whereas, lupus can affect any part of the body, including the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys and brain; no organ is spared. The disease can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages, organ failures and, in some cases, death; and

Whereas, while lupus can strike women, men, and children of all ages, 90 percent of individuals diagnosed with the disease are women mostly of childbearing age. No one is safe from lupus; African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic/Latino Americans and Asian Americans are two to three times more likely to develop lupus, a disparity that remains unexplained; 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; and

Whereas, the Lupus Foundation of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation in Oklahoma City have distinguished themselves as state and national leaders in lupus awareness, education, outreach, referral, research and treatment;

Now, therefore, I, Mary Fallin, Governor of the State of Oklahoma, do hereby proclaim May 2013 as

"Lupus Awareness Month"

in the State of Oklahoma.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Oklahoma City, this 14th day of May, in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and thirteen, and of the State of Oklahoma in the one hundred and fifth year.



Assistant Secretary of State
Chris Morris

Governor
Mary Fallin

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