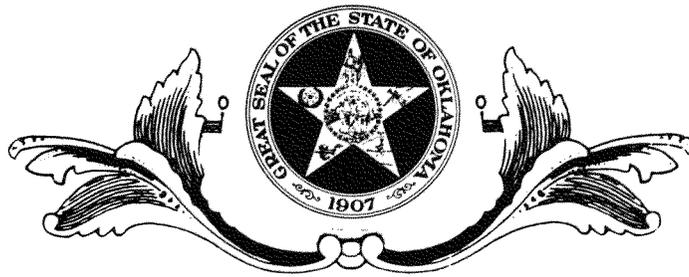


STATE OF OKLAHOMA



FILED

APR 08 2014

OKLAHOMA SECRETARY
OF STATE

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

Whereas, each year, May is designated as National Lupus Awareness Month to show support for the estimated two million Americans, including approximately fifty thousand Oklahomans, who have lupus; and

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

Whereas, lupus can affect any part of the body, including the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys, and brain, as well as cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages, organ failures and, in some cases, death; and

Whereas, while lupus can strike people regardless of gender or age, ninety percent of individuals diagnosed with the disease are women mostly of childbearing age. 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 advocacy, awareness, education, outreach, referral, support, research, and treatment;

Now, therefore, I, Mary Fallin, Governor of the State of Oklahoma, do hereby proclaim May 2014 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.



ATTEST:

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Oklahoma City, this 8th day of April, in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and fourteen, and of the State of Oklahoma in the one hundred and sixth year.

Chris Benz

SECRETARY OF STATE

Mary Fallin

GOVERNOR

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