



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the citizens of the Empire State recognize that good health is a key component of a long, productive and fulfilling life and, in that regard, we are proud to support nationwide and statewide observances such as *Lupus Awareness Month*, which focuses attention upon a devastating and often pervasive auto-immune disease that causes damage to the organs and tissues of the entire body, in some cases, death; and

Whereas, there is currently no known cure for Lupus, which causes the body's immune system to become overactive and attack healthy skin, kidneys, lungs, heart and the brain, causing painful inflammation; Lupus can strike both children and adults, although the great majority affected are young people in the prime of their lives – 90% of whom are women – as the disease is 10 to 15 times more likely to occur among adult females than adult males; and

Whereas, Lupus affects approximately 1.5 million Americans, including 105,400 New Yorkers, many who must endure daily challenges to cope with a wide range of symptoms, some mild and some life-threatening; and

Whereas, Lupus is most prevalent among African-Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asians and, tragically, thousands of people from these cultural groups die from Lupus each year because a cure remains elusive; and

Whereas, many health professionals are unaware of the symptoms and health effects of Lupus, causing people with Lupus to suffer for years before they obtain a correct diagnosis and medical treatment, and this demonstrates the need for increased public and professional awareness of the disease; early detection and proper medical treatment can help control Lupus and it is important that individuals who may have undiagnosed cases can recognize the potential warning signs, be checked for Lupus, and seek appropriate treatment if tested positive; and

Whereas, professionals and volunteers of the Lupus Agencies of New York State are committed to assisting individuals who suffer from Lupus, as well as their family members; in New York State, these efforts include the activities of various support groups, the publications of newsletters, volunteers who make in-hospital visits, the availability of telephone hotline services, and informational literature; and

Whereas, the citizens of New York State understand the need for research to find the causes, and methods of treatment, and possible cures for Lupus and support the goals of this annual observance to raise public awareness of this devastating chronic disease that diminishes the quality of life for those affected and their loved ones;

Now, Therefore, I, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim May 2010 as

LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this fourth day
of May in the year two thousand ten.

David A. Paterson

Governor

James Schwab
Secretary to the Governor