



## Template Proclamation Language

**Note on Usage:** *The following language should be personalized to the city/state you're submitting your proclamation. For any questions on usage, please reach out to Margy Meislin ([mmeislin@lupusresearch.org](mailto:mmeislin@lupusresearch.org)).*

WHEREAS: Lupus is a chronic, complex autoimmune disease. In lupus, the immune system, meant to defend against infections, produces autoantibodies that mistake the body's own cells as foreign, causing other immune cells to attack organs such as the kidneys, brain, heart, lungs, and skin, as well as blood and joints; and

WHEREAS: Lupus directly affects millions worldwide; according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, over 200,000 Americans have systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). Ninety percent of people with lupus are women, most often diagnosed between the ages of 15-45. Lupus disproportionately impacts Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Asian and Pacific Islander communities; and

WHEREAS: Lupus is one of the most difficult diseases to diagnose because its symptoms come and go, mimic those of other conditions, and there is no single test that can definitively identify the illness. Yet early diagnosis and treatment usually lessen the progression and severity of the disease and are vital to preserving health and preventing further complications, organ damage, and death; and

WHEREAS: Symptoms of lupus can mimic other conditions and overlap with other autoimmune disorders, causing people with lupus to suffer for many years before obtaining a correct diagnosis and medical treatment, demonstrating the critical need for increased public and professional awareness of lupus. Increasing public awareness and focusing public attention on lupus and its devastating impact on patients' lives will provide hope for a better future for those affected; and

WHEREAS: The Lupus Research Alliance works to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of lupus and to promote breakthrough research, education, and support for individuals who live with, or care for, someone who struggles with this disease. This month, we recommit ourselves to supporting the research that will lead to better, targeted, treatments and a cure for this devastating illness that affects so many [Americans / residents of the State/City of \_\_\_\_], and to putting hope into action; and

Now, therefore, I, the [Mayor/Governor of [\_\_\_\_]], do hereby proclaim May as Lupus Awareness Month in the [City/State of \_\_\_\_].