

# LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS: Lupus, a disabling and sometimes fatal immune system disorder that may affect the skin, joints and one or more internal organs in varying combinations, presents itself in 50,000 new cases every year, resulting in 3,000 yearly deaths; and

WHEREAS: Although lupus is prevalent among the population, with many becoming affected by the ailment in the prime of their lives, it is necessary to focus awareness and understanding of a disease with which most Americans are not familiar; and

WHEREAS: Volunteers provide the majority of services linking lupus patients, their family and their friends to various support services; and

WHEREAS: In an effort to increase public awareness of lupus and the effects this disease has on its victims, the Georgia Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America will join other organizations across our state in sponsoring special community programs during the month of October; and

WHEREAS: It is appropriate to recognize the Lupus Foundation in their ardent efforts to provide supportive services to Georgians living with lupus, to educate Georgians about lupus and to support research into its cause and cure; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 2003 as LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia and encourage our citizens to become knowledgeable about lupus and its effects on the human body.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this first day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand three.