

# Proclamation

by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- Whereas,** each year, the Great State of West Virginia designates May as *Lupus Awareness Month* to show support and advocate for the residents living with lupus and the thousands more who care for them; and
- Whereas,** systemic lupus erythematosus (also known as lupus or SLE) is a chronic and debilitating autoimmune disease in which the immune system inexplicably and randomly attacks the body's own tissues and vital organs, including the kidneys, brain, heart, lungs, blood, skin, and joints, and lupus is the leading cause of premature cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, and stroke among young women; and
- Whereas,** lupus poses diagnostic challenges due to its symptoms mirroring other diseases, and significant gaps persist in understanding its causes and implications, because healthcare professionals often lack awareness of lupus symptoms and ramifications, leading to individuals suffering for years before receiving an accurate diagnosis and treatment, and of those diagnosed with lupus, over 50% take four or more years and visit three or more healthcare providers before obtaining a correct diagnosis; and
- Whereas,** in recent years, only three treatments for lupus have received approval, and they are not effective for everyone, which highlights the critical need for ongoing research to identify treatments that benefit all patients, and there is a significant demand for additional lupus medical research to discover safer and more effective therapies; and
- Whereas,** most lupus patients struggle to maintain employment and rely solely on loved ones for support; and dependence on caregivers adds significant stress and financial strain for both the patient and the caregiver; and
- Whereas,** the Great State of West Virginia will work to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of lupus and to promote education, research, social support, and quality medical care for our citizens who live with or care for someone who struggles with this disease.

**Now, Therefore,** Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *May 2025* as:

## *Lupus Awareness Month*

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.

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

**Done** at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Twenty-Third day of May, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Five, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Second year of the State.



Patrick Morrisey  
Governor

By the Governor:



Kris Warner  
Secretary of State