

# STATE of WISCONSIN



## OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

# Proclamation

*WHEREAS*; according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease that can cause inflammation, tissue damage, and pain throughout the body; and

*WHEREAS*; impacting approximately 1.5 million Americans, including 28,000 Wisconsinites according to the University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Medicine and Public Health, lupus is one of the most common autoimmune diseases in the United States; and

*WHEREAS*; while the immune system is typically the body's defense against infections, for individuals with lupus, the immune system attacks healthy tissue resulting in damage to the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys, brain, and any other body part or organ system; and

*WHEREAS*; the severity and symptoms of lupus vary from person to person, with symptoms ranging from arthritis and rashes to seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages, and organ failure; and

*WHEREAS*; lupus can affect anyone, however, the disease more commonly affects women of reproductive age and women of color; and

*WHEREAS*; lupus can be difficult to diagnose due to its wide range of symptoms and similarities to other diseases, and affected individuals can sometimes wait years before receiving a correct diagnosis; and

*WHEREAS*; today, the state of Wisconsin joins affected individuals, medical professionals, and dedicated advocates and organizations across the state and country, including the Wisconsin chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America, in raising awareness of lupus and working towards better diagnoses, more advanced treatments, and a cure;

*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim May 2023 as

## LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state's residents.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have  
hereunto set my hand and caused the  
Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin  
to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in  
the City of Madison this 7<sup>th</sup> day of  
April 2023.

TONY EVERS  
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI  
Secretary of State