



*WHEREAS, each year, the Lupus Society of Illinois designates May as Lupus Awareness Month to show support for the estimated 65,000 Illinois residents who have lupus; and,*

*WHEREAS, lupus is an acute and chronic autoimmune disease in which the immune system is unbalanced, causing inflammation and tissue damage to virtually every organ system in the body; and,*

*WHEREAS, lupus can affect any part of the body, including the skin, lungs, heart, kidneys, and brain - no organ is spared; and,*

*WHEREAS, lupus can also cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages, and organ failure; and,*

*WHEREAS, while lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age, men are also affected by this disease. In addition, African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Asians, and Native Americans are two to three times more likely to develop lupus - a disparity that remains unexplained; and,*

*WHEREAS, lupus can be particularly difficult to diagnose because its symptoms are similar to those of many other illnesses, and major gaps still exist in understanding the causes and consequences of lupus; and,*

*WHEREAS, more than half of all people with lupus take four or more years and visit three or more doctors before obtaining a correct diagnosis;*

*THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim May 2018 as **LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH** in Illinois and urge all citizens to observe this month by education themselves on the symptoms and impact of lupus, and to join with the Lupus Society of Illinois in supporting programs of research, education, and community service.*

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

*Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,  
this EIGHTEENTH day of APRIL, in  
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and  
EIGHTEEN, and of the State of Illinois,  
two hundredth.*



*Deese White*

SECRETARY OF STATE

*Bruce Rauner*

GOVERNOR