



Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor
Proclamation

State Capitol
Boise

LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, each year, the Lupus Foundation of America designates May as National Lupus Awareness Month to show support for the estimated 1.5 million Americans who have Lupus; and

WHEREAS, Lupus is an acute and chronic (lifelong) 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. The disease can cause seizures, strokes, heart attacks, miscarriages and organ failure; and

WHEREAS, while Lupus strikes mostly women of childbearing age, no one is safe from Lupus. African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Asians and Native Americans are two or 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 exist in understanding the causes and consequences of Lupus. More than half of all people with Lupus take four or more years and visit three or more doctors before obtaining a correct diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, there has been only one drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration specifically for Lupus in 52 years; current treatments for the disease have damaging side effects;

WHEREAS, one in 150 people in Idaho are affected by Lupus;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim May 2011 to be

LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

in Idaho, and I urge each of our citizens to observe this month by educating themselves on the symptoms and impact of Lupus, and to join with the Treasure Valley Lupus New Group, Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America, in supporting programs of research, education and community service.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 21st day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and eleven and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred thirty-fifth and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred twenty-first.

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

BEN YSURSA
SECRETARY OF STATE