



Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor
Proclamation

State Capitol
Boise

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 to three times more likely to develop lupus – a disparity that remains unexplained; and

WHEREAS, lupus can be particularly difficult to diagnose because it's symptoms are similar to those of many other illnesses, and major gaps 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; and

WHEREAS, over 5,000 people in Idaho are affected by lupus;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim May, 2013 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 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 1st day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and thirteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred thirty-seventh and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred twenty-third.

A blue ink signature of C.L. "Butch" Otter, written in a cursive style.

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

A black ink signature of Ben Yursa, written in a cursive style.

BEN YURSA
SECRETARY OF STATE