



# PROCLAMATION



**WHEREAS**, lupus is a chronic 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. It is a leading cause of premature cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, and stroke among young women; and

**WHEREAS**, lupus directly affects 1.5 million people in the United States. Each year, thousands of people are newly diagnosed with lupus, the majority of whom are young people in the prime of their lives, and, as lupus disproportionately affects women, 90 percent of those affected are women.

**WHEREAS**, lupus is one of the most difficult diseases to diagnose because its symptoms come and go, mimic those of other diseases, and there is no single test that can definitively identify the illness. Yet early diagnosis and treatment usually lessen the progression and severity of the disease and are vital to preserving health and preventing further complications, organ damage, and death; and

**WHEREAS**, many healthcare professionals are unaware of the symptoms and health effects of lupus, causing people with lupus to suffer for many years before obtaining a correct diagnosis and medical treatment, demonstrating the need for increased public and professional awareness of lupus. Increasing public awareness and focusing public attention on lupus and its devastating impact on patients' lives will provide hope for a better future for those affected; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lupus Research Institute works 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. This month, let us recommit ourselves to supporting the research that will lead to better, targeted treatments and a cure for this devastating illness that affects so many people in the prime of their lives.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Mayor Nicholas Polisenio, by the authority vested in me by the governing body of the Borough of Spotswood, do hereby declare May 20, 2016 as:

## LUPUS AWARENESS DAY

I urge all citizens to support the search for a cure and assist those individuals and families who deal with this devastating illness on a daily basis.

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of Spotswood, New Jersey on this 2nd day of May, in the year of 2016.

ATTEST:

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*Nicholas Polisenio*

*Mayor*

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*Patricia DeStefano, RMC*

*Municipal Clerk*