

Dear Neighbor,

Lupus is more pervasive and severe than people think, and has a devastating impact that the public does not realize. That is why May is recognized as **Lupus Awareness Month!** Throughout the month of May, our goal is to increase public understanding of this cruel and mysterious chronic autoimmune disease that can damage any part of the body - skin, joints, and/or organs. **While lupus affects people of all races and ethnicities, African Americans — as well as Hispanics/Latinos, Asians, Pacific Islanders and Native Americans — are diagnosed with lupus 2-3 times more often than Caucasians.**

Acknowledging these facts and seeing firsthand how lupus has adversely affected the lives of some of my close friends and neighbors, *I was able to pass legislation last year in the New York State Legislature that created a lupus awareness license plate at the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The proceeds from the sale of this license plate will be used to fund research and lupus education and outreach initiatives across New York State.*

Lupus is difficult to diagnose, a challenge to treat, and there is no cure. This Lupus Awareness Month, you can help spread knowledge and bring us closer to a future free from lupus. **Wear purple during Lupus Awareness Month and especially on May 18 - #PutOnPurple Day.**

I will continue to do my part and I encourage you to join me!

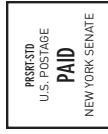
Yours in Service,



Kevin Parker

New York State Senate  
Albany, NY 12247

**MAY IS LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH!**



**FROM STATE SENATOR  
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## **WHO CAN HELP IN OUR COMMUNITY?**

**SUNY Downstate Medical Center**  
Division of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery  
Type: Rheumatology  
450 Clarkson Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11203  
Phone: (718) 270-1662

**New York Methodist Hospital**  
Type: Rheumatology  
506 6th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11215  
Phone: (718) 246-8700

**Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center**  
Type: Rheumatology  
585 Schenectady Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11203  
Phone: (718) 604-5700

**Brookdale University  
Hospital and Medical Center**  
Type: Rheumatology  
1 Brookdale Plaza  
Brooklyn, NY 11212  
Phone: (718) 240-5100

**Interfaith Medical Center**  
Type: Rheumatology  
528 Prospect Place, 3rd Floor  
Brooklyn, NY 11213  
Phone: (718) 613-6888

**Lupus Research Institute**  
330 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite #1701  
New York, NY 10001  
Phone: (212) 812-9881

## What Is Lupus?

The immune system is designed to attack foreign substances in the body. If you have Lupus, something goes wrong with your immune system and it attacks healthy cells and tissues. This can damage joints, skin, kidneys, the heart, lungs, blood vessels, and the brain.

### Discoid Lupus

Causes a skin rash that doesn't go away.

### Subacute Cutaneous Lupus

Causes skin sores on parts of the body exposed to sun.

### Drug-induced Lupus

Can be caused by medications.

### Neonatal Lupus

A rare type of Lupus that affects newborns.



## Causes Of Lupus ?

The cause of Lupus is not known. Research suggests that genes play an important role, but genes alone do not determine who gets Lupus, and it is likely that many factors trigger the disease.

## Symptoms Of Lupus ?

The most common symptoms are:

- Pain or swelling in joints
- Muscle pain
- Fever with no known cause
- Red rashes, most often on the face
- Chest pain when taking a deep breath
- Hair loss
- Pale or purple fingers or toes
- Sensitivity to the sun
- Swelling in legs or around eyes
- Mouth ulcers
- Swollen glands
- Feeling very tired

Less common symptoms are:

- Anemia  
(a decrease in red blood cells)
- Headaches
- Dizzy spells
- Feeling sad
- Confusion
- Seizures



## Remember...

*Anyone can get Lupus, but it most often affects women. Lupus is also more common in women of African American, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American descent than in Caucasian women.*



To learn more about lupus and how you can help, visit the **Lupus Foundation of America** at [www.lupus.org](http://www.lupus.org), or call 202.349.1155.