

STATE OF ILLINOIS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
Proclamation

WHEREAS, scoliosis is an abnormal curvature of the spine that affects 2-3 percent of the population, or an estimated 7 million people in the United States. Scoliosis impacts people of all ages, regardless of race or socio-economic status, and there is no cure; and,

WHEREAS, scoliosis is common in children with a variety of congenital and neuromuscular diseases, but it is most prevalent in seemingly healthy children, with no known cause. The primary age of onset for scoliosis is 10-15 years of age, occurring equally among both genders, but with females five to eight times more likely to progress to a curve magnitude that requires treatment; and,

WHEREAS, approximately one out of every six children diagnosed with scoliosis will have a curve that progresses to a degree that requires active treatment. Annually an estimated one million patients diagnosed with scoliosis utilize health care resources; and,

WHEREAS, scoliosis can impact a person's quality of life by limiting activity, reducing respiratory function, causing pain and diminishing self esteem; and,

WHEREAS, screening programs allow for early detection and treatment which may alleviate the worst effects of scoliosis; and,

WHEREAS, increased public awareness of scoliosis can help children, parents, adults and healthcare providers understand and recognize the complexities of spinal deformities such as scoliosis; and,

WHEREAS, the observance of National Scoliosis Awareness Month provides an opportunity to renew our commitment to raise awareness of the societal and economic costs of musculoskeletal diseases such as scoliosis, and the need for continued research to alleviate the pain and suffering those diseases cause:

THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim June 2012 as **SCOLIOSIS AWARENESS MONTH** in Illinois, in support of the efforts by the Scoliosis Research Society and the National Scoliosis Foundation to raise awareness of scoliosis and to improve the quality of life for those affected.

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 FIRST day of MAY, in
the Year of Our Lord two thousand and
TWELVE, and of the State of Illinois
the one hundred and NINETY-FOURTH

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SECRETARY OF STATE

Pat Quinn

GOVERNOR