

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

**Whereas** Scoliosis, an abnormal curvature of the spine, has no known cause and affects approximately 2-3% of the population, or an estimated 7 million people in the United States; and

**Whereas** Scoliosis is a condition which strikes without particular regard to gender, race, age or economic status; and

**Whereas** The primary age of onset for scoliosis is between ten and fifteen with women being five times more likely to progress to a curve magnitude that requires treatment; and

**Whereas** Screening programs for scoliosis allow for early detection and for treatment opportunities which may alleviate the worst effects of the condition; and

**Whereas** It is appropriate that the residents of the Commonwealth recognize the issues faced by people with Scoliosis and seek ways to increase research to find ways to reduce pain and suffering associated with the disease,

**Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick**, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim June 2012 to be,

## SCOLIOSIS AWARENESS MONTH

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this sixteenth day of May, in the year two thousand and twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-fifth.

By His Excellency

DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH



God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts



# The Massachusetts General Court



## Resolutions

CONGRATULATING THE NATIONAL SCOLIOSIS FOUNDATION AND THE SCOLIOSIS RESEARCH SOCIETY  
ON THEIR OBSERVANCE OF JUNE 2012 AS NATIONAL SCOLIOSIS AWARENESS MONTH.

**WHEREAS,** THE NATIONAL SCOLIOSIS FOUNDATION IS OBSERVING SCOLIOSIS AWARENESS MONTH DURING JUNE 2012 IN ORDER TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF SCOLIOSIS AND TO HELP CHILDREN, PARENTS, ADULTS AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS RECOGNIZE AND UNDERSTAND THE COMPLEXITIES OF SUCH SPINAL DEFORMITIES AS SCOLIOSIS; AND

**WHEREAS,** SCOLIOSIS, WHICH HAS NO KNOWN CURE, IS AN ABNORMAL CURVATURE OF THE SPINE WHICH AFFECTS APPROXIMATELY 6 TO 9 MILLION PEOPLE OR 2 TO 3 PER CENT OF THE UNITED STATES POPULATION; AND

**WHEREAS,** SCOLIOSIS, THE CAUSE OF WHICH IS UNKNOWN, IS COMMON IN CHILDREN WITH A VARIETY OF CONGENITAL AND NEUROMUSCULAR DISEASES BUT IS ALSO PREVALENT IN SEEMINGLY HEALTHY CHILDREN, OFTEN MANIFESTING BETWEEN THE AGES OF 10 AND 15; AND

**WHEREAS,** SCOLIOSIS OCCURS EQUALLY AMONG BOTH GENDERS, BUT CASES AFFECTING FEMALES ARE 8 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO PROGRESS TO A CURVE MAGNITUDE THAT REQUIRES TREATMENT; AND

**WHEREAS,** EACH YEAR, SCOLIOSIS PATIENTS MAKE MORE THAN 600,000 VISITS TO PRIVATE PHYSICIANS AND AN ESTIMATED 30,000 CHILDREN ARE FITTED WITH A BRACE FOR THE TREATMENT OF SCOLIOSIS, WHILE 38,000 PATIENTS UNDERGO SPINAL FUSION SURGERY; AND

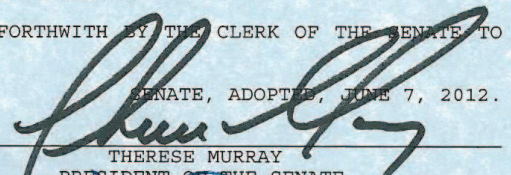
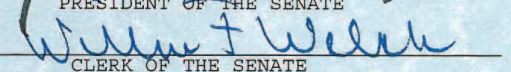
**WHEREAS,** SCOLIOSIS CAN IMPACT A PERSON'S QUALITY OF LIFE BY LIMITING ACTIVITY, CAUSING PAIN, REDUCING RESPIRATORY FUNCTION AND DIMINISHING SELF-ESTEEM AND SCREENING PROGRAMS ALLOW FOR EARLY DETECTION AND TREATMENT THAT MAY ALLEVIATE THE WORST EFFECTS OF SCOLIOSIS; AND

**WHEREAS,** THE NATIONAL SCOLIOSIS FOUNDATION AND THE SCOLIOSIS RESEARCH SOCIETY ARE OBSERVING NATIONAL SCOLIOSIS AWARENESS MONTH TO RENEW THEIR COMMITMENT TO RAISING AWARENESS OF THE SOCIETAL AND ECONOMIC BURDENS OF MUSCULOSKELETAL DISEASES SUCH AS SCOLIOSIS AS WELL AS THE NEED FOR INCREASED FUNDING FOR RESEARCH TO REDUCE THE PAIN AND SUFFERING THESE DISEASES CAUSE; NOW THEREFORE BE IT


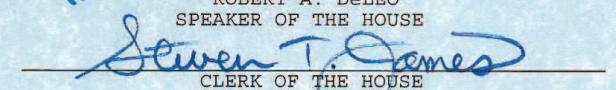
**RESOLVED,** THAT THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT HEREBY CONGRATULATES THE NATIONAL SCOLIOSIS FOUNDATION AND THE SCOLIOSIS RESEARCH SOCIETY ON CELEBRATING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2012 AS NATIONAL SCOLIOSIS AWARENESS MONTH AND FURTHER ENCOURAGES ALL CITIZENS OF THE COMMONWEALTH TO JOIN THIS EFFORT TO RAISE AWARENESS OF SCOLIOSIS AND RELATED MUSCULOSKELETAL DISEASES; AND BE IT FURTHER

**RESOLVED,** THAT A COPY OF THESE RESOLUTIONS BE TRANSMITTED FORTHWITH BY THE CLERK OF THE SENATE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL SCOLIOSIS FOUNDATION.

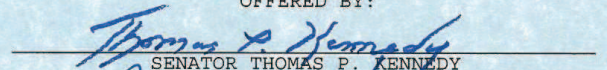

SENATE, ADOPTED, JUNE 7, 2012.

  
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THERESE MURRAY  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE  
  
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WILLIAM J. WALSH  
CLERK OF THE SENATE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ADOPTED IN CONCURRENCE, JUNE 7, 2012.

  
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ROBERT A. DeLEO  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
STEVEN T. JAMES  
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

OFFERED BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SENATOR THOMAS P. KENNEDY  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
REPRESENTATIVE RHONDA L. NYMAN

