



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Scoliosis is an abnormal curvature of the spine that affects about 6 million people in the United States. The primary age of onset for the condition is 10 to 15.

There is no known cause for scoliosis, which can cause patients to experience pain, reduced physical activity, pressure on the lungs and heart, and diminished self-esteem. About one in six people with scoliosis requires treatment, which can range from wearing a brace to undergoing spinal surgery. Girls are five times more likely than boys to need treatment.

Screening programs assist with early detection and treatment, which may ward off the worst of the condition's effects. While there are screening programs in schools, it is also important that parents, school teachers and school nurses learn about and recognize the early symptoms of scoliosis.

I encourage all Texans to learn more about the symptoms of scoliosis. Together, we can make a difference for the health of Texas kids.

Therefore, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, to hereby proclaim June 2012 to be

Scoliosis Awareness Month



in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this the 16th day of April, 2012.

Rick Perry
Governor of Texas



The Capitol
Austin, Texas 78711-2068
512-463-0001

David Dewhurst
Lieutenant Governor of Texas
President of the Senate

1-800-441-0373
Fax: 512-936-6700
Dial 711 for Relay Calls

March 6, 2012

The Honorable Rick Perry
Capitol Building
Room 2S.1
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Governor Perry,

As you may know, June is National Scoliosis Awareness Month – uniting patients, families, physicians and other concerned citizens in a nationwide effort to promote public awareness, prevention and treatment of scoliosis. I think it's important for us to do our part to help educate Texans about this debilitating disorder that affects the lives of thousands of people across our state.

There are currently six million people in the United States living with scoliosis – many of whom are children who may require back braces or even spinal fusion surgery. Scoliosis limits physical activity, causes chronic pain, and in severe cases diminishes lung capacity and puts pressure on the heart. Unfortunately, there is no cure for scoliosis, but through early detection and treatment, we can prevent the worst effects and help people lead healthy and active lives.

Because the primary age of onset for scoliosis is 10-15 years old, it's also important that we educate our school teachers, nurses and parents on early detection and screening processes. Working together, we can raise awareness about this important issue and promote a positive message of hope.

Therefore, I respectfully request that you declare by proclamation June as National Scoliosis Awareness Month in Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Dewhurst". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David Dewhurst
Lieutenant Governor