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House of Representatives

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Scoliosis Awareness Month and to reaffirm our commitment to fighting a potentially debilitating medical condition that affects over 7 million Americans and 160,000 Bay State residents.

Each June, National Scoliosis Awareness Month brings together the diverse members of the scoliosis community – from physicians, patients, and families to private businesses committed to raising awareness about this spinal condition. To date, the cause of scoliosis remains unknown but quick diagnosis and early detection allows physicians to monitor the condition and, if necessary, begin treatment before serious complications, including chronic back pain and impacted heart and lung function would begin.

Approximately one out of every six children diagnosed with scoliosis requires continued treatment, and, in extreme cases, surgery. It is of paramount importance that early detection resources are available to local schools and physicians to ensure that children and their families are both screened and educated about the condition.

Further, while up to three percent of the American population is estimated to have scoliosis, the number of family and friends who are impacted by this condition numbers many millions more. With early detection and proper treatment, patients can live a healthy and active life. National Scoliosis Awareness Month promotes public awareness for this condition – elevating the visibility of scoliosis and empowering individuals whose lives have been touched by this condition.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing June as National Scoliosis Awareness Month by thanking organizations such as the National Scoliosis Foundation and the Scoliosis Research Society, as well as their many supporters, for their tireless efforts in raising awareness of scoliosis and promoting critical research on this condition.