

STATE OF ALASKA



Executive Proclamation by Governor Bill Walker

WHEREAS, scoliosis, an abnormal curvature of the spine, with no known cause, is a condition affecting 2-3 percent of the population, or an estimated 7 million people in the United States. Scoliosis is a condition which strikes without regard to gender, race, age or economic status; and

WHEREAS, an estimated one million scoliosis patients utilize health care yearly, with one of every six children being diagnosed and eventually requiring active medical treatment; and

WHEREAS, scoliosis causes the spine to abnormally curve sideways, into an "S" or "C" shape. Screening programs allow for early detection, and for treatment opportunities which may alleviate the worst effects of the condition; and

WHEREAS, the primary age of onset for scoliosis is between 10 and 15, with girls more likely to be affected than boys; when left untreated, scoliosis may cause chronic back pain, impact heart and lung function, and negatively affect self-esteem; and

WHEREAS, there is no cure for scoliosis; those affected by scoliosis might wear a brace to stop the curve from getting worse, or doctors may recommend surgery to correct a curve or the stop the curve from getting worse; and

WHEREAS, scoliosis is a multifunctional disorder, which requires multidisciplinary treatment to alleviate the worst effects of the condition, early detection and treatment of scoliosis with bracing may result in fewer surgeries; and

WHEREAS, increased public awareness of scoliosis is vital as we work to help children, adults, families, and healthcare providers understand, recognize, and treat the complexities of spinal deformities such as scoliosis.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Walker, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, do hereby proclaim June 2017 as:

Scoliosis Awareness Month

in Alaska, and encourage all Alaskans to support those affected by scoliosis, along with their families, and to seek advice of medical health professionals in order to make informed decisions about their healthcare.

Dated: June 1, 2017



Bill Walker

*Bill Walker, Governor
who has also authorized the
seal of the State of Alaska to
be affixed to this proclamation.*