



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

# Proclamation

WHEREAS, scoliosis is a musculoskeletal, multifactorial disorder in which there is an abnormal sideways curvature of the spine; and

WHEREAS, this condition, which has no cure, affects two to three percent of the population, or an estimated six million people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, despite physicians trying to treat this spinal deformity for centuries, 85 percent of cases are classified as idiopathic; and

WHEREAS, while scoliosis affects infants, adolescents and adults worldwide, the primary age of onset is 10 to 15 years of age and occurs equally among both genders; however, females are eight times more likely to progress to a curve magnitude that requires treatment; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Scoliosis Foundation, the vast majority of people with scoliosis are not expected to require treatment; however, each year patients make more than 600,000 visits to private physicians' offices, an estimated 30,000 children are put into a brace for scoliosis and 38,000 patients undergo spinal fusion surgery; and

WHEREAS, scoliosis impacts the individual's quality of life with limited activity, pain, reduced respiratory function and/or diminished self-esteem; and

WHEREAS, screening programs allow for early detection and for treatment opportunities that may alleviate the worst effects of the condition; and

WHEREAS, observing Scoliosis Awareness Month renews our commitment to raising awareness of and combating scoliosis, helping healthcare providers and the public understand and recognize its complexities, and highlighting the need for increased research to reduce the pain and suffering it causes;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRIS CHRISTIE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

JUNE 2017

AS

SCOLIOSIS AWARENESS MONTH

in New Jersey.

GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this thirtieth day of May in the year two thousand seventeen, the two hundred forty-first year of the Independence of the United States.



  
Lt. GOVERNOR

  
GOVERNOR