



## CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

*By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution of Virginia in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:*

### **NATIONAL SCOLIOSIS AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the health and safety of all Virginians is important to the happiness, prosperity, and well-being of our Commonwealth's families and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, scoliosis is an abnormal curvature of the spine, and idiopathic scoliosis has no known cause; and

**WHEREAS**, scoliosis affects two to three percent of the population, or an estimated seven million people in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, scoliosis is a condition which strikes without regard to gender, race, age or economic status; and

**WHEREAS**, the primary age of onset for scoliosis is between 10 and 15, and females are eight times more likely to progress to a curve magnitude that requires treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated one million scoliosis patients utilize health care yearly, with approximately one in every six children diagnosed with this condition eventually requiring active medical treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, increased public awareness of scoliosis helps children, parents, adults, and health care providers understand, recognize, and treat the complexities of spinal deformities such as scoliosis; and

**WHEREAS**, screening programs can lead to early detection and treatment opportunities, which may alleviate the worst effects of scoliosis; and

**WHEREAS**, National Scoliosis Awareness Month is an opportunity to renew Virginia's commitment to raising awareness of scoliosis, and help children, parents, adults, and healthcare providers understand, recognize, and treat the complexities of spinal deformities such as scoliosis;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ralph S. Northam, do hereby recognize June 2018 as **NATIONAL SCOLIOSIS AWARENESS MONTH** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



*Ralph S. Northam*  
Governor

*Kelley Thomas*  
Secretary of the Commonwealth