

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

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

**WHEREAS**, we must increase the public's awareness of scoliosis and help children, parents, adults, and health care providers understand, recognize, and treat the complexities of spinal deformities such as scoliosis; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the primary age of onset for scoliosis is between ten and fifteen years of age, with females being five times more likely to progress to a curve magnitude that requires treatment; and

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

**WHEREAS**, National Scoliosis Awareness Month renews our commitment to raising awareness of and combating scoliosis, and recognizes the need for increased research and funding to reduce the pain and suffering caused by scoliosis;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby declare June 2019 to be

### *Scoliosis Awareness Month*

in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2019

Governor Jay Inslee

