

State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the Empire State places the highest priority on the health and well-being of people and supports observances that raise awareness of medical conditions which impact the quality of life for many, such as scoliosis – a condition affecting 2-3% of the population, or an estimated 7 million people in the United States; and

Whereas, scoliosis is a sideways curvature of the spine and, while the most common type has no known cause (idiopathic), it is thought to involve hereditary factors, since the disorder tends to run in families; and

Whereas, less common types of scoliosis may be caused by neuromuscular conditions, such as cerebral palsy or muscular dystrophy; birth defects affecting the development of the bones of the spine; injuries to or infections of the spine; and

Whereas, most cases of scoliosis are mild, however, some malformations of the spine become more severe as children grow; extreme cases of scoliosis can be disabling, so that a severely curved spine can reduce the amount of space within the chest, making it difficult for the lungs to function properly; and

Whereas, while symptoms of scoliosis vary depending on its degree of progression, common signs associated with scoliosis include: one shoulder blade higher than the other; one shoulder blade that sticks out more than the other; uneven hips; a rotating spine; breathing problems; back pain; and

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

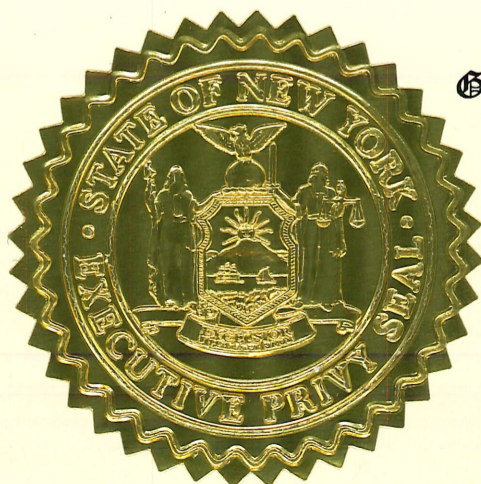
Whereas, scoliosis is a condition that strikes without regard to gender, race, age, or economic status; an estimated one million scoliosis patients seek health care yearly, with approximately one of every six children being diagnosed with this condition eventually required to receive active medical treatment; and

Whereas, New York State joins in support of National Scoliosis Awareness Month and its goals to bring public attention to this spinal condition and help children, parents, adults, and health care providers across the United States understand, recognize, and treat its complexities; moreover, we recognize that it is important to make screening programs available for early detection, and to continue research into treatment options which may help alleviate the symptoms of scoliosis for anyone suffering its painful effects;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim June 2021 as

SCOLIOSIS AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this eleventh day of June in the year two thousand twenty-one.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor
Melissa DeRosa