## NORTH DAKOTA

## PROCLAMATION ===

## SCOLIOSIS AWARENESS MONTH

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

WHEREAS, an estimated 1 million scoliosis patients utilize health care yearly, with approximately 1 of every 6 children being diagnosed with this condition eventually being required to receive active medical treatment; and

WHEREAS, the primary age of onset for scoliosis is between 10 and 15 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 opportunities which may alleviate the worst effects of the condition; and

WHEREAS, the observation of Scoliosis Awareness Month renews our commitment to raising awareness and combating the spinal condition of scoliosis, and to recognizing the need for increased research and funding to reduce the pain and suffering it causes.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim June 2023, SCOLIOSIS AWARENESS MONTH in the State of North Dakota.

Doug Burgum GOVERNOR

Michael Howe SECRETARY OF STATE