

PROCLAMATION SCOLIOSIS AWARENESS MONTH JUNE 2017

WHEREAS, public awareness of scoliosis must be increased to further 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, is a condition affecting two-to three-percent of the population, or an estimated 7 million people in the United States; and

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

WHEREAS, an estimated one million individuals inflicted with scoliosis utilize health care yearly, with approximately one in every six children diagnosed with this condition and eventually 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 treatment opportunities which may alleviate the worst effects of the condition; and

WHEREAS, North Dakotans are encouraged to observe Scoliosis Awareness Month to renew our commitment to raising awareness of and combating the spinal condition of scoliosis, and to recognize 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 2017, **SCOLIOSIS AWARENESS MONTH** in the State of North Dakota.

Doug Burgu

ATTEST:

Alvin A. Jaeger Secretary of State