National Scoliosis Awareness Month, June 2008
A Proclamation by Congresswoman Allyson Y. Schwartz

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

WHEREAS, scoliosis is an abnormal curvature of the spine and affects 2-3% of the population, or an estimated 6 million people in the United States. Scoliosis impacts infants, adolescents, and adults worldwide with little regard to race or socio-economic status, and there is no cure;

WHEREAS, the primary age of onset for scoliosis is 10-15 years of age, occurring equally among both genders, but with females eight times more likely to progress to a curve magnitude that requires treatment;

WHEREAS, scoliosis can impact a person's quality of life with limited activity, pain, reduced respiratory function, or diminished self-esteem;

WHEREAS, early detection through screening programs, treatment methods, pain management, or patient care may alleviate the worst effects of scoliosis;

WHEREAS, as we observe National Scoliosis Awareness Month, we renew our commitment to raising awareness of its serious impact;

THEREFORE, I, Allyson Y. Schwartz, Congresswoman, do hereby recognize June 2008 as National Scoliosis Awareness Month. I invite the President, the Governors of the States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, officials of other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and the American people to join me and the National Scoliosis Foundation in recognizing and reaffirming our commitment to increase awareness of scoliosis.

Allyson Y. Schwartz
Member of Congress