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: Scoliosis is an abnormal curvature of the spine, with the majority of the cases having no known cause. It is a condition affecting 2-3% of the population, or an estimated 7 million people in the United States. Scoliosis is a condition which strikes without regard to gender, race, age or economic status; and

WHEREAS: An estimated one million scoliosis patients utilize health care yearly, with approximately one of every six 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 ten and fifteen, 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.

NOW, THEREFORE: I, John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim June 2013 to be

NATIONAL SCOLIOSIS AWARENESS MONTH

in Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the State of Oregon to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Salem in the State of Oregon on this day, May 13, 2013.

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

Kate Brown, Secretary of State