June 2017: Scoliosis Awareness Month

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, an abnormal curvature of the spine with no known cause (idiopathic), is a condition affecting 2-3% of the population, or an estimated seven million people in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, an estimated one million scoliosis patients utilize health care yearly, with approximately one of every six children 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, Rick Snyder, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim June 2017 as Scoliosis Awareness Month.