

By Senator Perry

9-00769-24

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing June 2024, and each June thereafter, as "Scoliosis Awareness Month" in Florida.

WHEREAS, scoliosis is an abnormal curvature of the spine which can lead to lifelong health issues and affects an estimated 7 million people in the United States and almost 550,000 people in this state, and

WHEREAS, left untreated, scoliosis can worsen and may cause chronic back pain, impact heart and lung function, limit mobility, damage self-esteem, and diminish the overall quality of life, and

WHEREAS, most are diagnosed with scoliosis between the ages of 10 and 15, but the condition also affects infants and adults, regardless of race, class, or gender, with curve acceleration occurring, on average, just before age 12, and

WHEREAS, increasing public awareness is important for health care professionals, teachers, parents, and children to understand and recognize the early signs of scoliosis and to help those affected to seek professional treatment, avoiding what could become a complex spinal deformity, and

WHEREAS, health care screening for the condition is noninvasive and takes about 30 seconds, allowing for early detection and treatment, which can lessen the long-term effects of scoliosis, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education, in cooperation with the Department of Health, through the school health services program, screens for scoliosis and monitors growth and development to help minimize health barriers for students in

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30 grades pre-K through 12, and

31 WHEREAS, Governor Ron DeSantis and State Surgeon General
32 Dr. Joseph Ladapo are working together to protect, promote, and
33 improve the health of all Floridians by making public health
34 resources available through state, county, and community
35 efforts, and

36 WHEREAS, Scoliosis Awareness Month is an opportunity to
37 renew our commitment to increasing awareness of scoliosis and
38 bettering our understanding of this condition through research
39 and innovation, NOW, THEREFORE,

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41 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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43 That June 2024, and each June thereafter, is recognized as
44 "Scoliosis Awareness Month" in Florida.