State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

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 is an abnormal curvature of the spine, with no known cause (idiopathic), is a condition affecting 2-3% of the population, or an estimated 7 million people in the United States, and 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 the early detection and treatment opportunities which may alleviate the worst effects of the condition; and

WHEREAS, we 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; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim June, 2012 to be Scoliosis Awareness Month in Rhode Island and encourage all its citizens to join me in recognizing the importance of this month.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, this 22ND day of May, 2012

Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor

A. Ralph Mollis
Secretary of State