

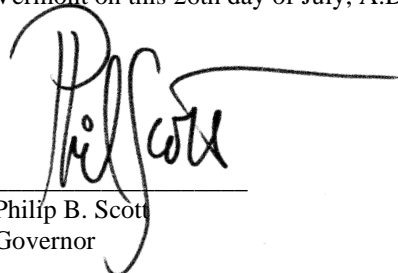
State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** gastroschisis is a defect of the abdominal wall that occurs during pregnancy which may allow the intestines and sometimes other organs to protrude outside the baby's body; and
- WHEREAS,** babies born with gastroschisis will require surgery to place the abdominal organs inside the baby's body and repair the abdominal wall; and
- WHEREAS,** each year, 1 in 2,229 individuals (approximately 4.5 / 10,000 births) are born with gastroschisis in the United States, and a similar proportion of Vermont births (approximately 4.8 / 10,000 births); and
- WHEREAS,** studies show that gastroschisis rates in live born babies have been increasing nationwide as well as inflammation and maternal stress may be risk factors; and
- WHEREAS,** many Americans living with gastroschisis have serious and debilitating conditions that have a significant impact on the lives of those affected including but not limited to failure to thrive/slow growth, short bowel syndrome, multiple organ transplants, and long term feeding issues; and
- WHEREAS,** individuals and families affected by gastroschisis often experience problems such as a sense of isolation, few treatment options, problems related to accessing or being reimbursed for treatment, and the cause of gastroschisis is relatively unknown; and
- WHEREAS,** the Center for Disease Control (CDC) advises women to take steps before and during pregnancy to reduce the risk of having a baby born with birth defects like gastroschisis. These steps include taking a daily multivitamin with folic acid, not smoking or drinking alcohol during pregnancy, and most importantly, speaking with your doctor about how you may increase your chance of having a healthy baby; and
- WHEREAS,** the CDC is currently conducting the National Birth Defects Prevention Study, one of the largest U.S. studies looking at possible causes and risk factors for birth defects like gastroschisis; and
- WHEREAS,** Avery's Angels Gastroschisis Foundation (AAGF) organized the nationwide observance of Gastroschisis Awareness Day on July 30, 2013, and every year thereafter, to commemorate those living with or deceased from gastroschisis; and
- WHEREAS,** the founder of Avery's Angels son – Avery John Rauen – passed away from complications of his gastroschisis on July 30, 2009, at UNC hospital, and this date is to commemorate him and all others living with or deceased from gastroschisis.

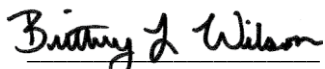
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim July 30, 2021 as

GASTROSCHISIS AWARENESS DAY
in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of
Vermont on this 26th day of July, A.D. 2021.


Philip B. Scott
Governor




Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs