

**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control, spina bifida is the most common permanently disabling birth defect, occurring when the spine and spinal cord do not form properly within the first 30 days of a pregnancy and impacting approximately 1,500 births each year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Spina Bifida Association of Greater New England estimates more than 300 individuals are currently living with spina bifida in Vermont; and

WHEREAS, individuals living with spina bifida have multiple medical needs including: walking and mobility issues from paralysis; bowel and bladder problems; water on the brain (hydrocephalus); latex allergies and pressure sores; and often have Arnold Chiari malformation type II; and

WHEREAS, due to medical advances, most individuals with spina bifida now live well into adulthood; and

WHEREAS, there is no cure for the nerve damage caused by spina bifida, but with good medical care and support, a healthy and satisfying life can be led; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the contributions of the Vermont medical community to optimize health and outcomes in the care and treatment of the complex medical issues related to this condition, as well as Spina Bifida Association of Greater New England for being a resource for of those with spina bifida and their families and promoting public awareness of spina bifida; and

WHEREAS, through public awareness, Vermont seeks to support individuals and families living with spina bifida among all Vermonters, continuing throughout their lifetime.

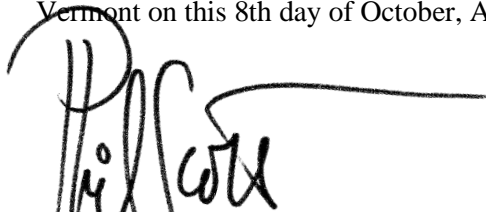
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim October 2021 as

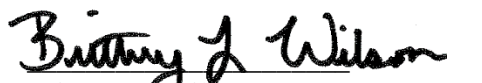
SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 8th day of October, A.D. 2021.




Philip B. Scott
Governor


Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs