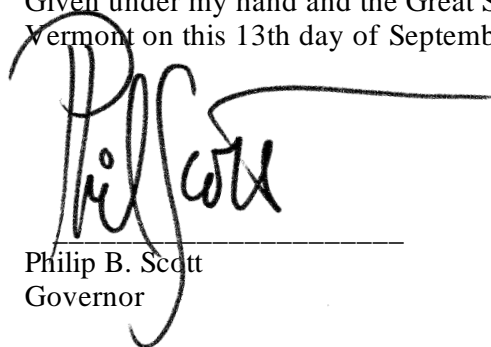


State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation


- 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 that 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; often also 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 Spina Bifida, but with good medical care and support, a healthy and satisfying life can be led; and
- WHEREAS,** special recognition is due to the Vermont medical community in addressing the medical care and services to optimize health and outcome in the caring and treatment of the complex medical issues related to this condition, and likewise recognition is due to the important contribution of the Spina Bifida Association of Greater New England for their support, assistance, and education for those with Spina Bifida and their families, and for prompting 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 2024 as

SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH
in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 13th day of September, A.D. 2024.


Philip B. Scott
Governor




Brittney J. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs