

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 pregnancy and impacting approximately 1,500 births each year in the United States; 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,** 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 2023 as

**SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH**  
in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 3rd day of October, A.D. 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip B. Scott', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and extends to the right.

Philip B. Scott  
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brittney J. Wilson', is written above the printed name and title.

Brittney J. Wilson  
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs