

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 159

BY SENATOR PERRY

A RESOLUTION

To designate June 2015 as "Scoliosis Awareness Month" in Louisiana and to encourage screening for this common condition.

WHEREAS, scoliosis is an abnormal curvature of the spine and is, generally, idiopathic, meaning there is no known cause for the condition; and

WHEREAS, scoliosis strikes without regard to age, gender, race, or economic status, although girls diagnosed with scoliosis are eight times more likely than boys to have a curve that requires treatment; and

WHEREAS, scoliosis is the most common spinal deformity, affecting between two and three percent of the population or an estimated seven million people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, an estimated one million patients seek medical care for scoliosis annually and one in every six children diagnosed with this condition eventually requires medical treatment; and

WHEREAS, the onset of scoliosis occurs most often between the ages of ten and fifteen and obtaining a diagnosis early ensures that most options for treating the curvature are available to the patient; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, most fifth and sixth graders are routinely screened for scoliosis at school and most children under the care of a pediatrician will be screened; and

WHEREAS, signs of scoliosis include a hump or uneven appearance in the rib cage, any spinal lateral asymmetry, shoulders at different heights, asymmetry of the waistline, and one hip more prominent than the other; and

WHEREAS, once a curve is detected, the curvature of the spine should be closely monitored by a medical professional because as the skeletons of children and young adults grow quickly, it is possible that a curve may worsen and monitoring should continue to determine if, at any point, treatment becomes necessary; and

WHEREAS, preventing severe curvature is important both for physical appearance and for the health of the patient; and

WHEREAS, severe curvature may put a patient at risk for cardiopulmonary compromise, restricting space available for the lungs and heart to function unimpeded; and

WHEREAS, an increase in the public's awareness of scoliosis can help children, parents, and health care providers better understand, recognize, and treat the complexities of spinal deformities, such as scoliosis.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate June 2015 as "Scoliosis Awareness Month" in Louisiana and encourages screening for this common condition.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE