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 1,650 births each year in the United States; and

Whereas, The Spina Bifida Association of Greater New England estimates that more than 1,000 individuals are currently living with Spina Bifida in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; 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 Massachusetts 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

Whereas, Through public awareness, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts seeks to support individuals and families living with Spina Bifida among all Massachusetts citizens, continuing throughout their lifetime,

Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim October, 2020, to be,

Spina Bifida Awareness Month

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this first day of October, in the year two thousand and twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fourth.

By His Excellence

Charles D. Baker
Governor of the Commonwealth

Karina E. Polito
Lt. Governor of the Commonwealth

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts