



SR0810

LRB104 21980 ECR 37948 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Scoliosis is a progressive condition causing an
3 abnormal curvature of the spine that affects approximately
4 300,000 Illinoisans, with the most common form, Adolescent
5 Idiopathic Scoliosis (AIS), typically appearing between the
6 ages of 10 and 15; and

7 WHEREAS, National data indicates that 2% to 3% of
8 adolescents will develop scoliosis, yet in states without
9 mandatory school screenings, such as Illinois, which ended its
10 mandate in 2010, the rate of late-stage detection is
11 significantly higher; and

12 WHEREAS, Early detection is critical, as clinical studies
13 show that non-invasive bracing is 72% effective at preventing
14 curve progression to the surgical threshold of 50 degrees when
15 identified early, whereas late-stage discovery often
16 necessitates spinal fusion surgery; and

17 WHEREAS, A study by the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery
18 found that patients diagnosed via clinical screening were 3.5
19 times less likely to require surgery than those whose
20 condition was discovered by chance or after physical symptoms
21 became obvious; and

1 WHEREAS, While Illinois law requires physical examinations
2 for students entering the sixth and ninth grades, many
3 constituents report that standardized spinal "Forward Bend
4 Tests" are frequently omitted during busy well-child visits,
5 leading to missed diagnoses during the peak of adolescent
6 growth spurts; and

7 WHEREAS, The cost of spinal fusion surgery can exceed
8 \$150,000, placing a massive financial burden on Illinois
9 families and the healthcare system compared to the negligible
10 cost of a 30-second physical screening; and

11 WHEREAS, June is recognized as National Scoliosis
12 Awareness Month to promote the importance of early detection
13 and to support the millions of families navigating this
14 diagnosis; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare June 2026 as
17 Scoliosis Awareness Month in the State of Illinois; and be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That we urge the Illinois Department of Public
20 Health (IDPH) to issue updated guidance to all
21 Illinois-licensed pediatricians and school health
22 professionals emphasizing the clinical necessity of

1 scoliometer use and spinal checks during all mandated sixth
2 and ninth-grade physicals; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to the Director of IDPH as a formal expression of our
5 commitment to the spinal health of Illinois youth.