



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

GASTROSCHISIS AWARENESS DAY

2018

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, it is estimated that about 1,871 babies are born each year in the United States with gastroschisis; however, several studies show that recently, this birth defect has become more common, particularly among younger mothers; and

WHEREAS, many people living with gastroschisis have serious and debilitating conditions, such as failure to thrive or slow growth, short bowel syndrome, long term feeding problems, and other life-threatening abdominal issues that require multiple surgeries and possible organ transplants; these issues have a significant impact on the lives of those with gastroschisis, as well as their families and caretakers; and

WHEREAS, individuals and families affected by gastroschisis often experience a sense of isolation, difficulty in obtaining an accurate and timely diagnosis, and limited or inaccessible treatment options; and

WHEREAS, the causes of gastroschisis among most infants are unknown, and patients and their families take on much of the fundraising efforts for research to better understand, diagnose, and treat the disease; and

WHEREAS, the hundreds of North Carolinians affected by gastroschisis will benefit from raised awareness, which can increase funding for research and other avenues of support from their communities; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina joins Avery's Angels Gastroschisis Foundation (AAGF) in raising awareness of this rare congenital disorder and encouraging people to support those and their families affected by gastroschisis in our communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim July 30, 2018, as "**GASTROSCHISIS AWARENESS DAY**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this fifth day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.