



# State of North Carolina

## ROY COOPER

### GOVERNOR

#### GASTROSCHISIS AWARENESS DAY

2019

#### BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

#### A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, gastroschisis is a rare birth defect in which the baby's intestines protrude through a hole in the belly wall and appear outside the body; and

**WHEREAS**, it is projected that 1 in 2229 individuals are born with gastroschisis in the United States and 1 in 2174 individuals are born with this disease in North Carolina annually; and

**WHEREAS**, many Americans 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 are relatively unknown, and patients and their families take on much of the fundraising efforts for research to better understand, diagnose and treat the disease; an official Awareness Day proclamation is often the precursor to funding for research and other avenues of support; 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 on July 30, 2019;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim July 30, 2019, 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 twenty-ninth day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand and nineteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.