



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

## CHIARI MALFORMATION AWARENESS MONTH

2023

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

### A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, Chiari malformation (CM) is a serious neurological disorder affecting well over 300,000 people in the United States, first identified by Austrian pathologist Professor Hans Chiari in the 1890s and categorized in order of severity: CM types 0, 1, 1.5, 2, 3, and 4; and

**WHEREAS**, Chiari malformations are defects in the cerebellum, the part of the brain that controls balance; these defects create pressure on the cerebellum and brain stem and may block the normal flow of cerebral spinal fluid to and from the brain; and

**WHEREAS**, the cause of Chiari I malformation is unknown, but scientists believe it is either a congenital condition caused by exposure to harmful substances during fetal development or a genetic condition, as it may appear in more than one family member; and

**WHEREAS**, symptoms usually appear during adolescence or early adulthood and can include severe head and neck pain, vertigo, muscle weakness, balance problems, blurred vision or double vision, difficulty swallowing, and sleep apnea; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke of the National Institutes of Health is conducting research to find alternative surgical options and identify the cause of the malformations to create improved treatment and prevention plans; and

**WHEREAS**, in September 2023, events will be held throughout our state by the North Carolina chapters of Conquer Chiari to support families affected by Chiari malformation;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September, 2023, as “**CHIARI MALFORMATION AWARENESS MONTH**” 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 thirty-first day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-three and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-eighth.