



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

## CRANIOFACIAL ACCEPTANCE MONTH

2023

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

### A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, each year, about 300 newborn children in North Carolina are among thousands of children in the United States who are either born with or develop a craniofacial difference, a structural or physical anomaly of the head and/or face; and

**WHEREAS**, the most well-known craniofacial difference is cleft lip, which is seen in over 185,000 births a year worldwide; there are many more children that are born with dozens of additional facial differences such as Apert Syndrome, TreacherCollins Syndrome, Crouzon Syndrome, facial palsy, and craniosynostosis, among others; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals with craniofacial differences and their families often struggle to understand what they are facing and how to move forward in their early stages of life; families are often under emotional and financial strain due to demands resulting from ongoing and expensive medical care and treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the complexity of craniofacial syndromes, the majority of affected individuals will endure up to 30 - 40 surgeries before they reach adulthood; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a lack of education and information disseminated to the general public about individuals with facial differences; and

**WHEREAS**, organizations such as the Children's Craniofacial Association serve populations affected by craniofacial differences and the professions who care for them; these organizations empower and give hope to individuals and families affected by these facial differences, while working toward the vision of a world where all people are accepted for who they are, and not how they look; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina encourages and recognizes the efforts of organizations, professionals, individuals with craniofacial differences, and families working to ensure a better life for those affected by craniofacial conditions;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September, 2023, as "**CRANIOFACIAL ACCEPTANCE 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.