



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

## INVISIBLE DISABILITIES WEEK

2023

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

### A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, about 20 percent of Americans live with a condition which could be considered an invisible or hidden disability; and

**WHEREAS**, invisible disabilities can include cognitive impairment and brain injury, autism spectrum disorder, chronic illnesses like multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue, chronic pain and fibromyalgia, deafness, hard of hearing or blindness and/or low vision, anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and many more; and

**WHEREAS**, the term invisible disabilities, as defined by the Invisible Disabilities Association, distinguishes disabilities not readily apparent based upon just looking at a person, leading this person to fight a battle seldom acknowledged by the outside world; and

**WHEREAS**, the lack of obvious signs of disability may result in misunderstandings, fear, and distrust, as well as a lack of funding, accommodations, medical resources, and overall support; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina encourages organizations, health care practitioners, and all people to promote awareness and understanding for those affected by disabilities, regardless of visibility;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 15 – 21, 2023, as “**INVISIBLE DISABILITIES WEEK**” 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 fifteenth day of October 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.