

# State of North Carolina

**JOSH STEIN**  
GOVERNOR

## ARTHRITIS AWARENESS MONTH

2026

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

### A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, arthritis includes more than 100 rheumatic diseases and conditions that affect joints, tissues that surround joints, and other connective tissue; and

**WHEREAS**, arthritis is a chronic health problem that is the leading cause of physical disability among Americans and is most common among people with multiple chronic conditions; nearly 1.5 million adults in North Carolina have activity limitations caused by arthritis; and

**WHEREAS**, among working-age adults with arthritis in North Carolina, 48 percent have minor work limitations due to their arthritis; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 60 million American adults live with some form of doctor-diagnosed arthritis, representing 24.1 percent of adults in the United States; and 22.9 percent of the population in North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 300,000 children under 18 years of age have a form of arthritis or rheumatic conditions, representing approximately 1 in every 250 children in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, arthritis costs the United States economy more than \$304 billion each year, \$140 billion in direct medical care costs and \$164 billion in lost wages; and

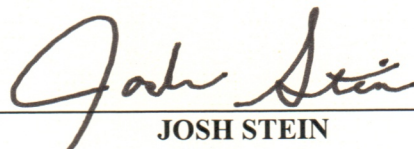
**WHEREAS**, in North Carolina, more than 2,116,000 are living with arthritis; in the U.S., 30.5 percent of adults with diabetes and 36.5 percent of adults with cardiovascular disease also have arthritis; and

**WHEREAS**, veterans account for 232,000 people in North Carolina living with arthritis; one out of every three United States veterans live with arthritis; and arthritis is the top cause of disability among veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, research supporting better prevention strategies, interventions, and treatments is crucial to reducing the number of North Carolinians suffering from arthritis;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, JOSH STEIN, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 2026 as “**ARTHRITIS AWARENESS MONTH**” in North Carolina and commend its observance to all residents.



  
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JOSH STEIN  
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-seventh day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-sixth and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fiftieth.