

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 24-1505

A Proclamation Regarding October 2024 as Spina Bifida Awareness Month

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control, Spina Bifida is the most common permanently disabling birth defect, occurring when the spine and spinal cord do not form properly within the first 30 days of a pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, the Spina Bifida Association of Colorado estimates that approximately 1700 Coloradans are living with Spina Bifida, a permanently disabling birth defect; and

WHEREAS, over 1600 babies are born with Spina Bifida every year in the United States and 200,000 people are currently living with spina bifida in the US, no two are affected in the same way; and

WHEREAS, there is still no cure for Spina Bifida which literally means "split spine" and is characterized by the incomplete development of the protective covering around the brain and spinal cord and may be caused by lack of folic acid during pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, individuals living with Spina Bifida have multiple medical needs including: walking and mobility issues from paralysis as well as many other physical issues that may include learning disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Spina Bifida Association of Colorado is the only spina bifida resource available in the state of Colorado and surrounding states who give non-medical support including state and national advocacy, scholarships, networking events and educational programs to approximately 1700 Coloradans and their families living with Spina Bifida; and

WHEREAS, with the care and support of their families, friends and community and sufficient medical and financial resources, children and adults with Spina Bifida can lead active successful lives; and

WHEREAS, through public awareness, the Spina Bifida Association of Colorado seeks to support individuals and families living with spina bifida continuing throughout their lifetime and recognize these individuals as essential Colorado citizens and bring attention to the lack of medical care for spina bifida adults in the state of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, this October 2024, Colorado joins other states in the nation in supporting those with Spina Bifida and shares the worthy goals of this month-long observance, and likewise supports the work of public and private entities that strive to make our communities accommodating and supportive to those with Spina Bifida.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE DENVER CITY COUNCIL:

Section 1. That the Denver City Council do hereby proclaim October 2024 in Denver, Colorado as Spina Bifida Awareness Month and urge all the citizens of Colorado to take cognizance (notice) of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Section 2. That the Clerk and Recorder of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to the Spina Bifida Association of Colorado.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL October 28, 2024

PRESIDENT

