

# Proclamation

## by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** Parkinson's disease is a chronic, progressive neurological disease and is the second most common neurodegenerative disease in the United States; and
- Whereas,** there is inadequate data on the incidence and prevalence of Parkinson's disease, but it is estimated to affect nearly 1 million people in the United States, and that number is expected to more than double by 2040; and
- Whereas,** Parkinson's disease is the 14<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the United States, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and
- Whereas,** there are millions of Americans who are caregivers, family members, and friends greatly impacted by Parkinson's disease; and
- Whereas,** it is estimated that Parkinson's disease costs \$58 billion per year, of which the federal government shoulders \$29 billion, leaving American families to cover the remaining \$29 billion; and
- Whereas,** it is estimated that more than 1,600,000 people in the United States will be impacted by Parkinson's disease by 2037, at an estimated economic burden of \$80 billion; and
- Whereas,** over 7,000 people in West Virginia have Parkinson's disease, costing the state \$350 million annually for direct and indirect health care costs; and
- Whereas,** The West Virginia General Assembly passed a Statewide Parkinson's Disease Registry during the 2022 Legislative Session to become operational in 2023. This Registry would become a model for collecting patient population data that can help improve our understanding and treatment of Parkinson's Disease. After the data is processed by the State Department of Health, it is made available to research institutions in an effort to improve treatments and eventually find a cure for the disease; and
- Whereas,** research suggests the cause of Parkinson's disease is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, but the exact cause in most individuals is still unknown; and
- Whereas,** there currently is no objective diagnostic test or biomarker to diagnose Parkinson's disease; and
- Whereas,** there is no known cure or drug to slow or halt the progression of the disease, and available treatments are limited in their ability to address patients' medical needs and remain effective over time; and
- Whereas,** the symptoms of Parkinson's disease vary from person to person and can include tremors, slowness of movement and rigidity, gait and balance difficulty, speech and swallowing disturbances, cognitive impairment and dementia, mood disorders, and a variety of other nonmotor symptoms; and
- Whereas,** volunteers, researchers, caregivers, and medical professionals are working to improve the quality of life of people living with Parkinson's disease and their families; and
- Whereas,** increased research, education, and community support services are needed to find more effective treatments and to provide access to quality care to those living with the disease today.

**Now, Therefore,** Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim **April 2022** as:

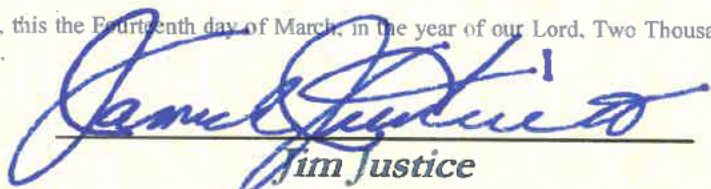
### *Parkinson's Awareness Month*

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.


**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

**Done** at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Fourteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Two, and in the One Hundred Fifty-Ninth year of the State.



  
Jim Justice  
Governor

*By the Governor:*

  
Mac Warner  
Secretary of State