

# Proclamation

## by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** Osteopathic medicine was founded in the late 1800's in Kirksville, Missouri, by a medical doctor who recognized that the medical practices of the day often caused more harm than good. This medical doctor focused on developing a system of medical care that would promote the body's innate ability to heal itself and called this system of medicine osteopathy, now known as osteopathic medicine; and
- Whereas,** Osteopathic medicine provides all the benefits of modern medicine including prescription drugs, surgery, and the use of technology to diagnose disease and evaluate injury. It also offers the added benefit of hands-on diagnosis and treatment through a system of treatment known as osteopathic manipulative medicine. Osteopathic medicine emphasizes helping each person achieve a high level of wellness by focusing on health promotion and disease prevention; and
- Whereas,** Osteopathic physicians, also known as DOs, work in partnership with their patients. They consider the impact that lifestyle and community have on the health of everyone, and they work to break down barriers to good health. DOs are licensed to practice the full scope of medicine in all 50 states. They practice in all types of environments, including the military, and in all types of specialties, from family medicine to obstetrics, surgery, and aerospace medicine; and
- Whereas,** the nation faces a critical physician workforce shortage. According to a report by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), by 2025, the gap between our physician supply and demand will range from 34,500 to 88,000; and
- Whereas,** colleges of osteopathic medicine are graduating more and more students each year. More than 6,500 new osteopathic physicians enter the workforce each year; and
- Whereas,** the nation's approximately 121,000 fully licensed active and practicing osteopathic physicians practice the entire scope of modern medicine, bringing a patient-centered, holistic, hands-on approach to diagnosing and treating illness and injury; and
- Whereas,** today, more than 25 percent of medical students in the United States are training to be osteopathic physicians; and
- Whereas,** Osteopathic physicians can choose any specialty, prescribe drugs, perform surgeries, and practice medicine anywhere in the United States; and
- Whereas,** Osteopathic physicians bring the additional benefits of osteopathic manipulative techniques to diagnose and treat patients
- Whereas,** Osteopathic physicians work in partnership with patients to help them achieve a high level of wellness by focusing on health education, injury prevention, and disease prevention.

**Now, Therefore,** Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim **April 18-24, 2022** as:


## *Osteopathic Physicians Week*

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 April, 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