

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

Whereas, there are 1 in 2,229 individuals born with gastroschisis in the United States, and roughly the same number born in West Virginia annually; and

Whereas, many Americans living with gastroschisis have serious and debilitating conditions that have a significant impact on the lives of those affected including but not limited to failure to thrive/slow growth, short bowel syndrome, multiple organ transplants, and long-term feeding issues; and

Whereas, individuals and families affected by gastroschisis often experience problems such as a sense of isolation, difficulty in obtaining an accurate and timely diagnosis, few treatment options, and problems related to accessing or being reimbursed for treatment; and

Whereas, the cause of gastroschisis is relatively unknown, patients and their families must bear a large share of the burden for things such as raising funds for research; and

Whereas, an official Awareness Day proclamation is often the precursor to funding for research and other avenues of support; and

Whereas, Avery's Angels Gastroschisis Foundation (AAGF) is organizing a nationwide observance of Gastroschisis Awareness Day on July 30, 2022, and every year thereafter; and

Whereas, the founder of Avery's Angels son— Avery John Rauen —passed away from complications of his gastroschisis on July 30, 2009, at UNC hospital, and this date is to commemorate him, and all others living with or deceased from gastroschisis.


Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *July 30, 2022* as:

Gastroschisis Awareness Day

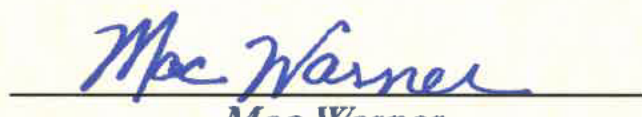
in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.

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 Sixteenth day of June, 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