

# Proclamation

## by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** in 2018, the American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution declared the second Thursday of October as Ombuds Day to recognize the value of providing informal assistance to citizens; and
- Whereas,** disagreements, conflicts, complaints, and questions will inevitably arise in any institution or government and the fair and effective resolution of such issues is in the best interest of all involved; and
- Whereas,** West Virginia is committed to providing fair, accurate, nondiscriminatory services and benefits to qualified state residents and eligible persons, and provides Ombudsman professionals to support this commitment; and
- Whereas,** “Ombudsman” means “defender of the people’s rights,” and is a profession that has existed for centuries; and
- Whereas,** the West Virginia Foster Care Ombudsman is an independent, impartial, and confidential resource that advocates for the rights of foster children and foster/kinship parents, investigates and resolves complaints, and makes recommendations for systemic reform; and
- Whereas,** the West Virginia Foster Care Ombudsman envisions an empathic, healing, and accountable child welfare system where voices are heard, people are empowered, and systems are responsive; and
- Whereas,** the West Virginia Mental Health Ombudsman is an intermediary for citizens in West Virginia who experience difficulties with behavioral health services; and
- Whereas,** any citizen who has a grievance relative to the delivery of behavioral health services in West Virginia may consult the West Virginia Mental Health Ombudsman about rights, service options, applicable laws and rules, and may do so with the assurance of compassion and confidentiality; and
- Whereas,** recognition of this day is an opportunity to increase awareness and understanding of the profession, highlight the value the Ombudsman brings to the organizations and residents they serve, and encourage appreciation for and use of ombudsman programs.

**Now, Therefore,** Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *October 13, 2022* as:

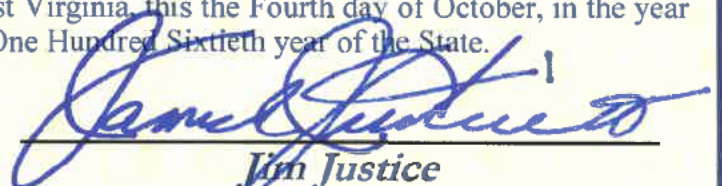
### *Ombuds Day*

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 Fourth day of October, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Two, and in the One Hundred Sixtieth year of the State.



  
Jim Justice  
Governor

*By the Governor:*

  
Mac Warner  
Secretary of State