

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** cardiovascular disease affects men, women, and children of every age and race in the United States (U.S.); from 2019-2020, deaths from heart disease increased by 4.8%, the largest increase in heart disease deaths since 2012, and stroke deaths increased in the same period by 6%; cardiovascular disease continues to be the leading cause of death in the U.S.; and
- Whereas,** in 2015, cardiovascular disease accounted for \$555,000,000,000 in health care expenditures and lost productivity, and by 2035, cardiovascular disease will account for \$1,093,900,000,000 in health care expenditures and lost productivity annually; and
- Whereas,** the global COVID-19 disease pandemic poses significantly high risk to individuals with CVD and risk factors; and
- Whereas,** individuals in the U.S. have made great progress in reducing the death rate for cardiovascular disease, but this progress has been more modest with respect to the death rate for cardiovascular disease in women and minorities; and
- Whereas,** cardiovascular diseases are the number one killer of women in the U.S., killing more women than all forms of cancer combined; and cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of maternal death in the U.S., or more simply put, heart disease is the No. 1 killer of new moms; and
- Whereas,** women, especially Black and Hispanic women, are disproportionately impacted by heart disease and stroke and research shows heart attacks are on the rise in younger women. Yet younger generations of women, Gen Z and Millennials, are less likely to be aware of their greatest health threat, including knowing the warning signs of heart attacks and strokes.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *February 2023* as:

American Heart Month

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance by increasing awareness, speaking out about heart disease, and empowering others to reduce their risk for cardiovascular diseases, we can save thousands of lives each year.


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 Second day of February in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three, and in the One Hundred Sixtieth year of the State.




Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:


Mac Warner
Secretary of State