

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** kidney disease affects an estimated 37 million Americans, and more than 550,000 are on dialysis; and
- Whereas,** African Americans with kidney disease are more likely to develop kidney failure than any other racial/ethnic group; and
- Whereas,** the health disparities in kidney failure are unsustainable, with African Americans making up 13 percent of the United States population but accounting for 35 percent of those with kidney failure; and
- Whereas,** kidney failure places enormous physical, emotional, and financial burdens on individuals and costs the Medicare program over \$50 billion annually; and
- Whereas,** there are genetic factors that can increase an individual's risk for kidney disease, one being variants (mutations) in the apolipoprotein L1 (APOL1) gene; and
- Whereas,** these variants can increase susceptibility for APOL1-Mediated Kidney Disease (AMKD), a rapidly progressive form of kidney disease that can lead to kidney failure; and
- Whereas,** it is estimated that if a patient has variants in both copies of the APOL1 gene, there is a 1 in 5 chance they will go on to develop kidney disease, and an estimated 13 percent of African Americans have variants in both copies of the APOL1 gene; and
- Whereas,** a person with AMKD may not have any symptoms of kidney disease until their kidneys are close to failing.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *April 30, 2024* as:


APOL1-Mediated Kidney Disease Awareness Day

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in 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 First day of April, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Four, and in the One Hundred Sixty-First year of the State.




Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:


Mac Warner
Secretary of State