

# Proclamation

## by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** there are nearly 7,000 diseases and conditions considered rare (each affecting fewer than 200,000 Americans) in the United States, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH); and
- Whereas,** many rare diseases are serious and debilitating conditions that have a significant impact on the lives of those affected; and
- Whereas,** while more than 450 drugs and biologics have been approved for the treatment of rare diseases according to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), millions of Americans still have rare diseases for which there is no approved treatment; and
- Whereas,** individuals and families affected by rare diseases often experience problems such as diagnosis delay, difficulty finding a medical expert, and lack of access to treatments or ancillary services; and
- Whereas,** while the public is familiar with some rare diseases, many patients and families affected by less widely known rare diseases bear a large share of the burden of funding research and raising public awareness to support the search for treatments; and
- Whereas,** residents of West Virginia are among those affected by rare diseases because nearly 1 in 10 Americans have rare diseases.

**Now, Therefore,** Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *February 29, 2024* as:

### *Rare Disease Day*

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

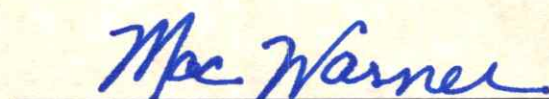
**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

**Done** at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Twenty-Fourth day of January, 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