

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** ninety percent of all melanomas are caused by ultraviolet radiation from the sun or indoor tanning devices; and
- Whereas,** according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the incidences of melanoma has doubled over the past three decades in the United States; and
- Whereas,** statistics show that the rate of new melanoma diagnoses in West Virginians are rising faster than all other cancers, except liver and bile; and
- Whereas,** the death rate from melanoma in West Virginia is 22 percent higher than the national average; therefore, making it the third highest in the nation; and
- Whereas,** West Virginia has the fastest rising death rate among our citizens from ages 65 and older and continues to increase by 3 percent every year; and
- Whereas,** having five or more sunburns doubles a person's risk for melanoma; and
- Whereas,** education on sun safety for both children and adults can improve an awareness of the importance protecting our skin when spending time outdoors; and
- Whereas,** research from the American Cancer Society shows that higher survival rates of malignant melanoma are the result of early detection. Early detection of pre-cancerous and cancerous lesions can save a person's life; and
- Whereas,** the Skin Cancer Foundation recommends an annual skin examination with a dermatologist, as well as monthly self-skin examinations to aide in the early detection of skin cancer; and
- Whereas,** May is *National Skin Cancer and Melanoma Awareness Month* to bring awareness to the importance of protecting our skin when spending time outdoors and indoors.

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

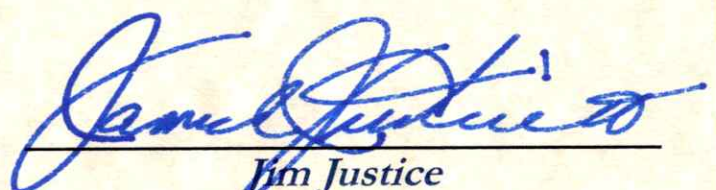
Skin Cancer and Melanoma Awareness Month

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 May, 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