

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** in 1982, the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime envisioned a national commitment to a more equitable and supportive response to victims; and
- Whereas,** this commemorative week celebrates the energy, perseverance, and commitment that launched the victims' rights movement, inspired its progress, and continues to advance the cause of justice for crime victims; and
- Whereas,** crime can leave a lasting impact on any age, regardless of age, national origin, race, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, immigration, or economic status; and
- Whereas,** incorporating communities' existing experts and trusted sources of support into efforts to fully serve survivors will develop a criminal justice system response that is truly accessible and appropriate for all victims of crime; and
- Whereas,** with the unwavering support of their communities and victim service providers behind them, survivors will be empowered to face their grief, loss, fear, anger, and hope without fear of judgment, and will feel understood, heard, and respected; and
- Whereas,** serving victims and rebuilding their trust restores hope to victims and survivors, as well as supports thriving communities; and
- Whereas,** engaging a broader array of healthcare providers, community leaders, faith organizations, educators, and businesses can provide new links between victims and services that improve their safety, healing, and access to justice; and
- Whereas,** honoring the rights of victims, including the rights to be heard and to be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect, and working to meet their needs rebuilds their trust in the criminal justice and social service systems; and
- Whereas,** *National Crime Victims' Rights Week* provides an opportunity to recommit ensuring that all victims of crime – especially those who are challenging to reach and serve – are offered culturally and linguistically accessible and appropriate services in the aftermath of crime; and
- Whereas,** West Virginia is hereby dedicated to strengthening victims and survivors in the aftermath of crime, building resilience in our communities and out victim responders, and working for a better future for all victims and survivors.

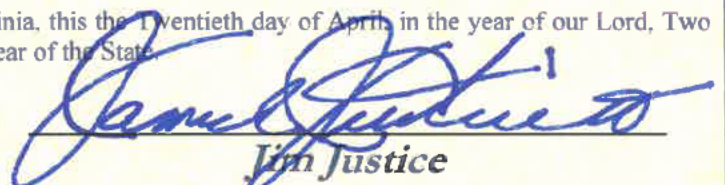
Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim **April 24-30, 2022** as:

National Crime Victims' Rights Week


in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance to reaffirm West Virginia's commitment to creating a victim service and criminal justice response that assists all victims of crime during *National Crime Victim's Rights Week* and throughout the year; and to express our gratitude and appreciation for those community members, victim service providers, and criminal justice professionals who are committed to improving our response to all victims of crime so that they may find relevant assistance, support, justice, and peace.

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 twentieth day of April, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Two, and in the One Hundred Fifty-Ninth year of the State.


Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:


Mac Warner
Secretary of State

