

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** *Better Hearing and Speech Month* provides various opportunities to raise awareness about communication disorders and to promote treatment that can improve the quality of life for those who experience problems with speaking, understanding, or hearing; and
- Whereas,** 17% of all Americans experience some form of hearing loss, costing the United States billions of dollars due to lost work productivity, special education, and medical treatment; and
- Whereas,** West Virginia's population of approximately 1.8 million indicates that an estimated 306,000 individuals may be living with varying degrees of hearing loss throughout our State; and
- Whereas,** the 1,026 Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists who work tirelessly in our State to bring better hearing and speech to those individuals who are affected by communication disorders are to be commended for their hard work and dedication; and
- Whereas,** this month, encourages the citizens of West Virginia to focus their attention on the needs of our citizens who have some form of hearing, speech, or language impairment to ensure that everyone has access to the audiology and speech-language pathology treatment that will help them lead full and productive lives; and
- Whereas,** by recognizing these challenges, our State wishes to draw attention to these needs, shine a light on those often-invisible disabilities, and to bring attention to the negative consequences of untreated hearing loss.

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


Better Hearing and Speech Month

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

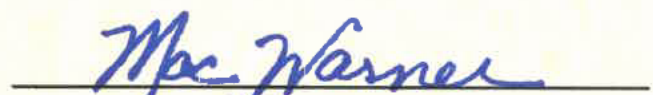
In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Twenty-Eighth 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