

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** National Fentanyl Awareness Day is a day of education to raise public awareness that people are dying at alarming rates due to illegally made fentanyl, a dangerous synthetic opioid; and
- Whereas,** fentanyl is involved in more deaths of Americans under 50 years of age than any other cause, including heart disease, cancer, and all other accidents; and
- Whereas,** fentanyl is odorless, tasteless, cheap and extremely potent, and it is often found in counterfeit pills disguised as Oxycontin, Percocet, Xanax and Vicodin, which can be deadly; and
- Whereas,** overdose deaths linked to synthetic opioids like fentanyl tripled nationally among teenagers in the last two years; and
- Whereas,** in West Virginia alone, fentanyl was involved in more than 75% of all overdose deaths in 2021; and
- Whereas,** House Bill 4373, signed into law in March 2022, excludes fentanyl test strips from the definition of drug paraphernalia, providing another resource to focus on overdose prevention; and
- Whereas,** Senate Bill 536 was signed into law in March 2022, and doubles the penalties for knowingly exposing government workers, especially first responders, to synthetic heroin known as fentanyl; and
- Whereas,** recovery from alcohol and other drug use occurs every day through a variety of recovery support resources and treatment programs; and
- Whereas,** to raise awareness and prevent overdose caused by fentanyl, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Office of Drug Control Policy and Bureau for Behavioral Health any many partners have come together to invite all residents of the State of West Virginia to participate in Fentanyl Awareness Day.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *May 10, 2022* as:

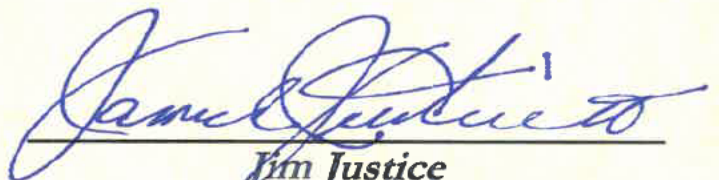
National Fentanyl Awareness Day

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 Sixth day of May, 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