

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** 1 in 8 children in West Virginia will experience the death of a parent or sibling by age 18, the highest rate of any state in the nation; and
- Whereas,** in addition to their feelings of grief, many children feel alone, misunderstood, and fearful, leading to an inability to manage or face their grief; and
- Whereas,** many adults and other children erroneously believe that grieving children are resilient enough that they get over their grief, so much so that children have often been called “forgotten mourners”; and
- Whereas,** many people do not realize that it often takes children much longer to deal with their grief than is commonly expected and that the amount of inner turmoil, invisible to most, is more intense than previously believed; and
- Whereas,** the majority of classroom teachers report that they often witness a negative impact on academic performance when a student loses a parent or guardian; and
- Whereas,** parents, educators, childcare practitioners, and community leaders all play a role in acknowledging and supporting childhood grief; and
- Whereas,** the third Thursday of every November is designated as “*Children’s Grief Awareness Day*,” a day for the community about grieving children, equipping peers and adults to support grieving children and honor these children and their loved ones who have died.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *November 16, 2023* as:


Children's Grief Awareness Day

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

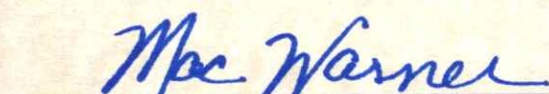
In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the second day of August, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three, and in the One Hundred Sixty-first year of the State.




Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:


Mac Warner
Secretary of State