

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** the term “victim” is more than just a label and has legal standing and protections that go along with it; and
- Whereas,** crime victims’ rights acts passed here in West Virginia and at the federal level guarantee victims the right to meaningfully participate and use their voice in the criminal justice process; and
- Whereas,** victim service providers, advocates, law enforcement officers, attorneys, and other allied professionals can help survivors find their justice by enforcing these rights; and
- Whereas,** the right to provide an impact statement ensures that victims’ voices are considered in court during the sentencing and, when applicable, restitution processes; and
- Whereas,** including and elevating the voices of survivors makes certain they are heard and seen and creates a path to forging and sustaining community trust; and
- Whereas,** engaging survivors creates responses and services that are credible, meaningful, and centered on individual needs; and
- Whereas,** survivors’ lived experience can serve as a catalyst for implementing innovative programs, shifting existing programs in new directions, and changing policies or practices that prevent survivors from accessing services or pursuing justice; and
- Whereas,** *National Crime Victims’ Rights Week* provides an opportunity to recommit to listening to crime survivors in every space where decisions are made that could impact them; and
- Whereas,** the Great State of West Virginia is hereby dedicated to amplifying the voices of survivors and creating an environment where survivors have the confidence that they will be heard, believed, and supported.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *April 23-29, 2023* as:

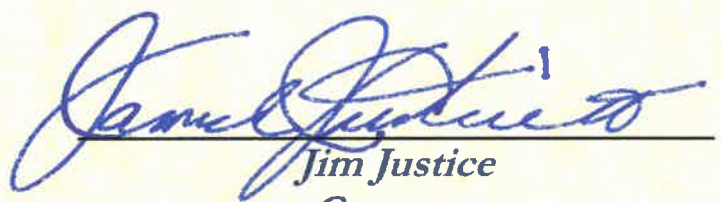
Crime Victims’ Rights Week

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

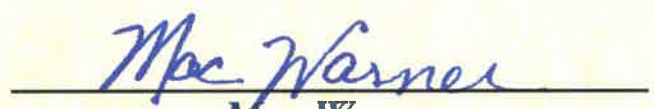
In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Thirtieth day of March, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three, and in the One Hundred Sixtieth year of the State.




Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:


Mac Warner
Secretary of State