

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** Functional Neurological Disorder (FND) is a problem with the functioning of the nervous system and how the brain and body send/receive signals; and
- Whereas,** physical and/or psychological risk factors can cause functional symptoms which include a variety of physical, sensory, and cognitive symptoms that have yet to be explained by a recognized disease. Functional Neurological Disorders are multifactorial, which means many different risk factors can contribute to the development of the disorder; and
- Whereas,** the symptoms may suddenly, can progress rapidly and often wax and wane (including complete remissions and sudden recurrences); and
- Whereas,** symptoms can include motor dysfunction, involuntary movements, seizures, gait disorders, muscle weakness, sensory problems, speech difficulties, vision disturbances, paralysis, and many more; and
- Whereas,** basic wiring of the nervous system is intact, but there is a problem with how the brain/nervous system is “functioning”, and how the brain fails to send and/or receive signals (messages) correctly. This impacts on how the body responds to different tasks such as movement control and attention; and
- Whereas,** the aim is to “retain the brain” by unlearning abnormal and dysfunctional movement patterns to relearn “normal” movement. Multi-disciplinary treatment has proven to be most effective; and
- Whereas,** a diagnosis is made by a Neurologist from positive neurological signs and tests that are specific to Functional Neurological Disorders. It is important a positive diagnosis is reached to avoid misdiagnosis, and that consideration is given to the fact that FND may also present alongside other Neurological diseases; and
- Whereas,** the current understanding is that biological, psychological, and social factors may contribute towards a person’s vulnerability to developing a Functional Neurological Disorder. Research continues to ascertain a clearer picture of the causes and mechanisms; and
- Whereas,** FND can affect anyone but is rare in children under 10, it affects twice as many women as it does men, and up to 30% of patients in neurology outpatient clinics have functional symptoms; and
- Whereas,** FND treatment is individualized and multidisciplinary, involving combinations of physical and psychological rehabilitation.

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

Functional Neurological Disorder Month

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance to promote awareness, support affected individual, and advance research for the prevention treatment and recovery of Functional Neurological Disorder.

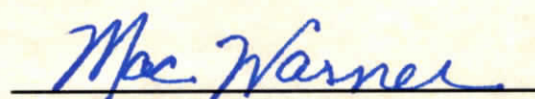
In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the First day of April, 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

