

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** in 2023, childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children under the age of 19 in the United States; and
- Whereas,** in the United States forty-seven children, between ages birth through age 19, will be diagnosed with cancer every day, totaling more than 17,293 children, and in West Virginia, there are more than seventy-five; children treated at WVU Children's Hospital in Morgantown; Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center at Hoops Children's Hospital/Cabell Huntington Hospital in Huntington and CAMC Children's Cancer Center with physician services provided by WVU Physicians of Charleston; and
- Whereas,** even though the childhood cancer community is making remarkable breakthroughs in cancer treatments and improving survival rates, nationally about 1 in 285 children will develop cancer before the age of 20. 1,800 children and adolescents are expected to die from cancer each year; and
- Whereas,** childhood cancer occurs regularly, randomly and spares no ethnic group, socioeconomic class, or geographic region. The overall incidence of childhood cancer is on the increase; and
- Whereas,** a childhood cancer diagnosis is a family diagnosis and is a tremendous emotional and financial burden for the family and child to bear; on average, cancer costs almost five times as much as hospitalizations for other pediatric conditions; and
- Whereas,** only four percent of the federal government's total funding for cancer research is dedicated to childhood cancers each year. Today we have only SIX drugs that were approved in the first instance for use in cancer treatment for children; and
- Whereas,** *National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month* recognizes the courage and compassion of those children, adolescents and their families throughout West Virginia and the nation who have, are currently battling childhood cancer; and
- Whereas,** all children and adolescents affected by cancer, their families, medical professionals, caregivers, and friends join West Virginia Kids Cancer Crusaders, Inc., to continue to unite collaborative efforts through providing a support network, raising awareness and funds for those affected by childhood cancer, and making a positive difference for patients, families, and survivors in the future.

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


National Childhood Cancer Awareness 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-Fifth 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