

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** an estimated 54 million Americans have osteoporosis or low bone mass, and studies suggest that approximately 1 in 2 women and up to 1 in 4 men age 50 and older will break a bone due to osteoporosis; and
- Whereas,** approximately 1.8 million Medicare beneficiaries suffered approximately 2.1 million osteoporotic fractures a year (1) and osteoporosis-related bone fractures are responsible for more hospitalizations than heart attacks, strokes, or breast cancer; and
- Whereas,** the total annual cost for osteoporotic fractures among Medicare beneficiaries was \$57 billion in 2018 and is expected to grow to over \$95 billion in 2040 without reforms, as the population ages; and
- Whereas,** in West Virginia 13,000 Medicare beneficiaries suffered over 15,900 osteoporotic fractures in 2016; and
- Whereas,** an estimated 2,000 West Virginians on Medicare suffered not just an initial fracture but also a subsequent fracture resulting in estimated costs of over \$40.6 million; and
- Whereas,** osteoporosis and the broken bones it can cause are not part of normal aging. Building strong bones begins in childhood and is essential to the prevention of osteoporosis care for our bones is important throughout our lives, but we reach our peak bone mass by early adulthood; and
- Whereas,** optimum bone health and prevention of osteoporosis can be maximized by a balanced diet rich in calcium and vitamin D, weight-bearing and muscle-strengthening exercise, and a healthy lifestyle with no smoking or excessive alcohol intake; and
- Whereas,** osteoporosis is often called a silent disease because one can't feel bones weakening. Breaking a bone is often the first sign of osteoporosis. Timely bone health screening, diagnosis, and treatment can help prevent fractures leading to hospitalization and nursing home stays; and
- Whereas,** cost-effective post-fracture care which improves care coordination has been demonstrated to reduce the number of subsequent or repeat fractures, yet is not widely available or properly incentivized by Medicare; and
- Whereas,** it is crucial that we raise awareness about bone health and osteoporosis among the public, health professionals, and policymakers.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *May 2024* as:

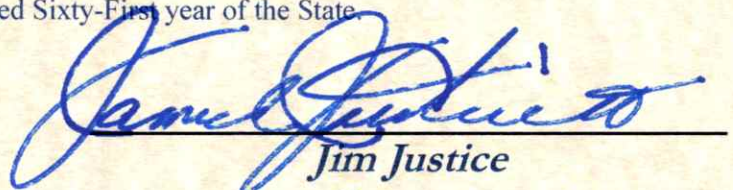
Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month

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

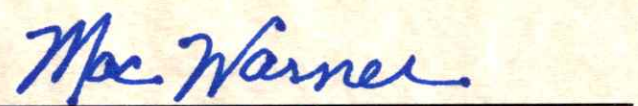
In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the First day of May, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Four, and in the One Hundred Sixty-First year of the State.




Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:


Mac Warner
Secretary of State