Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

Whereas, more than 9 million Americans suffer with gout, the most common form of inflammatory arthritis, caused by uric acid build-up in the joints; and

Whereas, gout causes excruciating attacks and impacts a patient's workplace, community, and daily quality of life; and

Whereas, Black Americans are two to three times more likely to develop gout than White Americans, and are less likely to be prescribed urate-lowering medications or receive ongoing, routine provider care; and

Whereas, Asian Americans and Asian Pacific Islanders are also at an increased risk of gout; and

Whereas, 39% of the Hmong population shows signs of gout prior to age 30; and

Whereas, stigma, lack of awareness and misinformation may hinder treatment for gout, a chronic disease characterized by sudden and excruciating attacks; and

Whereas, heightening public awareness can reduce the unfair stigma people with gout experience, and empower patients to seek quality care and timely treatment.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim May 22, 2022 as:

Gout 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 Twentieth day of April, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Two, and in the One Hundred Fifty-Ninth year of the State.

By the Governor:

[Signature]

Governor

Mac Warner
Secretary of State