**Proclamation**

*by Governor Jim Justice*

**Whereas,** children are key to the state’s future success, prosperity, and quality of life and while children are our most valuable resource, they are our most vulnerable; and

**Whereas,** preventing child abuse and neglect is a community responsibility that depends on involvement among people throughout the community; and

**Whereas,** child abuse and neglect can be prevented by supporting and strengthening West Virginia’s families, thus preventing the far-reaching effects of maltreatment, providing the opportunity for children to develop healthy, trusting family bonds, and consequently building the foundations of communities; and

**Whereas,** we must come together as partners so that the voices of our children are heard by all as we are a community extending a helping hand to children and families in need; and

**Whereas,** by providing a safe and nurturing environment for our children, free of violence, abuse and neglect, we can ensure that West Virginia’s children will grow to their full potential as the next generation of leaders, helping to secure the future of this state and nation.

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

**Child Abuse Prevention Month**

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to help prevent the abuse of children.

**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 February, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three, and in the One Hundred Sixtieth year of the State.

[Signature]
Jim Justice
Governor

**By the Governor:**

[Signature]
Mac Warner
Secretary of State