

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** there are more than 6,200 children in an out-of-home placement in the State of West Virginia; and
- Whereas,** West Virginia leads the nation in seeking out relatives and kinship caregivers, with more than 55% of all children in foster care placed in a relative or kinship home; and
- Whereas,** children and youth thrive when supported in an environment that provides stability, love, and hope; and
- Whereas,** families come in all shapes and sizes, and include kinship, relative, and resource families; and
- Whereas,** maintaining relationships with relatives and kin can increase stability, reduce trauma, and help children and youth maintain a sense of family, belonging, and identity; and
- Whereas,** mental and behavioral health is the largest unmet health need for children and youth in the foster care system; and
- Whereas,** effective training and support for kinship, relative, and resource parents improves retention, increases placement stability, and enhances capacity to help children and youth in foster care navigate life's challenges; and
- Whereas,** communities, professionals, and all West Virginia residents play a role in supporting children, youth, and their families as they grow; and
- Whereas,** *Foster Care Month* demonstrates a dedication to strengthening and uplifting West Virginia's children, youth, and families, as well as the professionals and advocates who work tirelessly in the child welfare system every day.

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

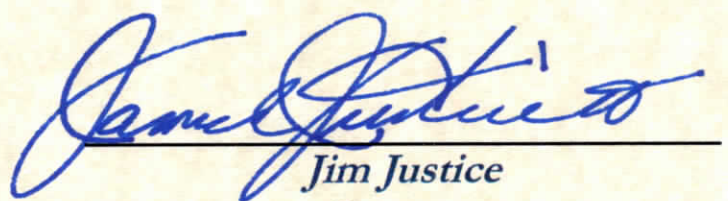
Foster Care Month

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 Twentieth day of May, 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