

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** families face serious health risks and March of Dimes fights for their health by supporting research, leading programs, and providing education and advocacy; and
- Whereas,** March of Dimes was founded by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1938 to fight polio, and funded the development of two vaccines – still in use today – that virtually eliminated the crippling disease; and
- Whereas,** March of Dimes in 1958, having achieved its initial mission, shifted its attention from polio to the prevention of birth defects, and through federal and state advocacy led the way in establishing a nationwide network of birth defects monitoring programs and research centers; and
- Whereas,** March of Dimes has undertaken decades of groundbreaking research in maternal and infant health, which has led the way to the discovery of life saving products and tests such as surfactant therapy for premature infants and tests to identify life-threatening birth defects; and
- Whereas,** March of Dimes has developed a collaborative model to study and prevent preterm birth through groundbreaking research at five Prematurity Research Centers; and
- Whereas,** March of Dimes was a pioneer in the support of newborn screening, urging Congress to pass and fund the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act, which in 2008 established national guidelines on the conditions states should include in newborn screening programs, and through state advocacy ensured that every state screens all newborns for that core set of conditions; and
- Whereas,** March of Dimes is a long-time advocate for access to health care for women of childbearing age, infants, children, and families, ensuring they have access to quality, affordable health care before, during, and after pregnancy through programs such as the Children's Health Insurance Program and Medicaid postpartum extension coverage for one full year after childbirth; and
- Whereas,** March of Dimes was a leading advocate for bipartisan legislation to ensure reasonable accommodations in the workplace with passage and enactment of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act; and
- Whereas,** March of Dimes in 2003 launched the Prematurity Campaign to address the crisis of premature birth and help families have full-term, healthy babies, and authored the Premature Research Expansion and Education Act for Mothers (PREEMIE) Act, which Congress enacted in 2006 to expand research, education, and services to fight premature births; and
- Whereas,** March of Dimes has set a national goal of reducing preterm birth to 8.1% in every state, which will result in a healthier start in life for tens of thousands of infants; and
- Whereas,** March of Dimes sponsors numerous programs to support healthy pregnancies and infants, such as its work to prevent early elective deliveries and maternal mortality, as well as its NICU Family Support Program; and
- Whereas,** March of Dimes and its volunteers continue to advocate for national and state policies and programs to improve the health of women of childbearing age, infants, children, and families; and
- Whereas,** March of Dimes is committed to mobilizing the nation by amplifying the voices of pregnant people and families.

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


March of Dimes 85th Anniversary Year

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance and special recognition to March of Dimes for its Eighty-Fifth Anniversary.


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 Sixth day of February, 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