

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being; and
- Whereas,** mental illnesses are real and prevalent in our nation, and half of us will have a mental health diagnosis at some point in our lives; and
- Whereas,** all Americans experience times of difficulty and stress in their lives, and should feel comfortable in seeking help and support to manage these times; and
- Whereas,** engaging in prevention, early identification, and early intervention are effective ways to reduce the burden of mental illnesses as they are to reduce the burden of other chronic conditions; and
- Whereas,** there is a strong body of research that identifies behavioral health risks and supports specific tools that all Americans can use to protect their health and well-being; and
- Whereas,** West Virginia was ranked the least-healthy State: 19.3%. It is up to all of us to know the signs of mental health issues and lend a hand to those who are struggling. Shame and stigma too often leave people feeling like there is no place to turn. Mental Health is an incredibly important part of overall health and with a growing number of Americans experiencing mental health symptoms, we need to join together to advocate for improving our nation's mental health care system, regardless of their personal situation; and
- Whereas,** jails and prisons have often become the default places of custodial care for even nonviolent people with serious mental illnesses; and
- Whereas,** each business, school, government agency, healthcare provider, organization, and citizen has a responsibility to promote mental health and well-being for all.

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


Mental Health 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 Twenty-ninth day of March, 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