

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** the condition of not being able to afford a sufficient supply of clean diapers to keep babies and toddlers clean, dry, and healthy, can adversely affect the health and well-being of children and their families; and
- Whereas,** national surveys and research studies report that nearly one in two families struggle with diaper needs and 48% of families delay changing a diaper to extend the available supply; and
- Whereas,** a daily or weekly supply of diapers is generally an eligibility requirement for babies and toddlers to participate in childcare programs and quality early-education programs that enable children to thrive and parents to work; and
- Whereas,** many parents struggling with diaper need report missing an average of five days of work each month due to an insufficient supply of diapers; and
- Whereas,** without enough diapers, babies, and toddlers risk infections and health problems that may require medical attention resulting in medical costs, and parents may be prevented from accessing childcare needed to go to work or school, thereby destabilizing the family's economic prospects and well-being; and
- Whereas,** the people of West Virginia recognize that diaper need is a public health issue, and addressing diaper need can lead to economic opportunity for the state's families and communities and improved health for children, thus ensuring all children and families have access to the necessities required to thrive and reach their full potential; and
- Whereas,** through their important work of addressing diaper need, diaper banks play a critical role in supporting families, improving infant health and well-being, and advancing our local and state economic growth.
- Whereas,** West Virginia is proud to be home to trusted community-based organizations including Ripley Nazarene Mission Baby Pantry that recognize the importance of diapers in ensuring health and providing economic stability for families and thus distribute diapers to families through various channels.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *September 18-24, 2023* as:


National Diaper Need Awareness Week

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 Thirty-first day of July, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three, and in the One Hundred Sixty-First year of the State.




Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:


Mac Warner
Secretary of State