

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** children are our nation's most precious resource, representing our nation's future and protecting them needs to be our highest priority; and
- Whereas,** 480,000 school buses carry 26 million elementary and secondary children 52 million passenger trips daily traveling approximately 4.4 billion miles each year; and
- Whereas,** America's school buses comprise the largest mass transportation fleet in the country, being 2.5 times the size of all other forms of mass transportation combined; and
- Whereas,** school buses meet higher construction specifications and inspection standards than any other vehicle; and
- Whereas,** many people are not aware that the school bus is the safest way for children to get to school, and many parents erroneously believe that driving their children to school helps protect them from injury, yet according to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality Analysis Reporting System, about 800 children are killed annually during normal school travel hours in vehicles other than school buses; and
- Whereas,** it is estimated that each week, 350,000 cars ignore the flashing red lights on school buses and pass the bus during loading and unloading procedures and most of the 15 children killed each year around school buses are aged five to seven and are killed in the area immediately surrounding the bus, either by a passing car or the bus itself; and
- Whereas,** *National School Bus Safety Week* dates back to 1966 and recognizes the hard work and dedication of school transportation personnel, especially the many school bus drivers who ensure a safe journey each and every day; and
- Whereas,** *National School Bus Safety Week* is celebrated the third full week in October and promotes awareness through local and state poster contests, lessons utilizing school bus safety community awareness kits, and other activities built around themes that raise awareness of school bus safety issues.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *October 16-20, 2023* as:

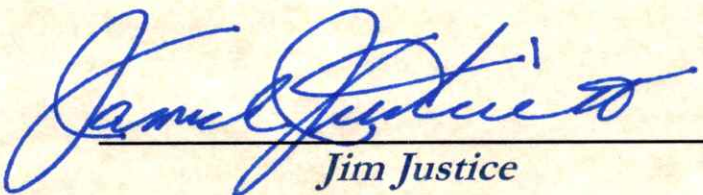
National School Bus Safety Week

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in observance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

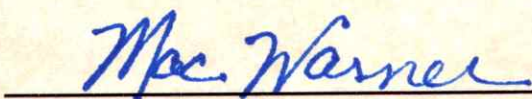
Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Eleventh day of October, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three, and in the One Hundred Sixty-First year of the State.





Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:



Mac Warner
Secretary of State