

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** Social Workers enter the profession because they have a strong desire to help empower individuals, families, communities, and our nation to overcome issues that prevent them from reaching their full potential; and
- Whereas,** Social Workers have worked for more than a century to improve human well-being and enhance the basic needs of all people; and
- Whereas,** Social Workers follow a Code of Ethics that calls on them to fight social injustice and respect the dignity and worth of all people; and
- Whereas,** Social Workers positively touch the lives of millions of Americans each day and in a variety of places, including schools, hospitals, the military, child welfare agencies, community centers, and federal, state, and local government; and
- Whereas,** the 2023 *Social Work Month* theme, "Social Work Breaks Barriers" embodies how social workers help empower individuals, families, communities, and our society to overcome hurdles that prevent them from achieving better well-being; and
- Whereas,** Social Workers are the largest group of mental health care providers in the United States, working daily to help thousands of Americans overcome mental illnesses such as depression and anxiety; and
- Whereas,** Social Workers have helped people cope with death and grief and helped people and communities recover from natural disasters that are increasingly fueled by our warming climate, including hurricanes, drought, and flooding; and
- Whereas,** Social Workers are on the frontlines of the nation's opioid addiction crisis, helping people get the treatment they need and prevail over substance use disorders; and
- Whereas,** Social Workers have helped this nation live up to its values by advocating for equal rights for all, including people of color, people who are Indigenous, people who are LGBTQIA2S+, or people who follow various faith; and
- Whereas,** Social Workers have continued to push for changes that have made our society a better place to live, including a livable wage, improved workplace safety, and social safety net programs that help ameliorate poverty, hunger, and homelessness.

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

Social Work Month

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

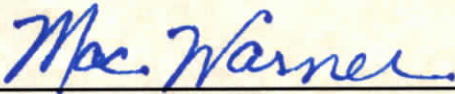
In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Ninth 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