

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** the Mountain State's future lies in the hands of our most valuable resource, our youth; and
- Whereas,** the protection of youth through education is the responsibility of parents, educational institutions, communities, and governmental agencies; and
- Whereas,** knowledge is power; education is the key to responsible decisions regarding drug use; and
- Whereas,** drug use endangers the intellect, health, and productivity of youth; and
- Whereas,** "underage drinking is a significant public health problem in the US." (CDC Alcohol and Public Health); and
- Whereas,** "excessive drinking is responsible for more than 3900 deaths and 225,000 years of potential life lost" annually among youths under twenty-one, (CDC Alcohol and Public Health); and
- Whereas,** 13.5% of West Virginia high school students smoke, (www.tobaccofreekids.org); and
- Whereas,** West Virginia had the highest opioid death rate per capita in the US in 2021 (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention); and
- Whereas,** West Virginia Woman's Christian Temperance Union has for 140 years emphasized the value of early training and educating youth to the dangers of legal and illegal drug use; and
- Whereas,** the Woman's Christian Temperance Union encourages all citizens to join them in promoting a drug free lifestyle.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *April 23-29, 2023* as:

Youth Temperance Education 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 Twentieth 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