

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services operates the vocational rehabilitation program, a beneficial partnership between the state and federal government to provide vocational rehabilitation services to West Virginians with disabilities seeking competitive integrated employment and to employers seeking to hire, retain, and advance qualified employees with disabilities; and
- Whereas,** an estimated 19% of West Virginia's population has a disability; and
- Whereas,** society's understanding of disability has moved away from being narrowly focused on the limitations of people with disabilities to being resolute in removing barriers, which restrict the life choices of those with disabilities; and
- Whereas,** providing individuals with disabilities with equal access to opportunities in job training, education and employment strengthens their unique capabilities and their ability to make valuable contributions within a variety of settings; and
- Whereas,** the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services, in collaboration with public and private sector partners and businesses throughout the state, helps West Virginians with disabilities excel in their chosen careers, earn competitive wages and benefits and positively impact their employers, communities and the state's economy; and
- Whereas,** a workforce reflecting the talents of all people, including those with disabilities, is critical to building inclusive communities and a strong economy in West Virginia; and
- Whereas,** the month of October is known as National Disability Employment Awareness Month, which is a time to showcase the employment contributions of individuals with disabilities; and
- Whereas,** the annual Ability Works Recognition Ceremony honors individuals who have achieved their vocational goals by means of their own hard work and perseverance and with assistance from the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *October 17, 2024* as:

Ability Works Recognition Day

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 Seventh day of October, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Four, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Second year of the State.




Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:


Mac Warner
Secretary of State