

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

Whereas, the Children's Craniofacial Association (CCA) began celebrating *Craniofacial Acceptance Month* in 2005 to bring awareness to the thousands of children born each year in the United States who are either born with or develop a craniofacial difference, which is a structural or physical anomaly of the head and/or face; and

Whereas, the most well-known syndrome being Cleft Lip which is seen in over 185,000 births a year worldwide (NIDCR.) While, many more children are born with dozens of additional facial differences including Apert syndrome, Treacher Collins Syndrome, facial palsy, and Craniosynostosis which is seen in over 1,500 births a year in the United States alone (CDC); and

Whereas, individuals with craniofacial differences and their families often struggle to understand what they are facing and how to move forward in their early stages of life; Families are often under emotional and financial strain due to demands resulting from ongoing and expensive medical treatment; and

Whereas, due to the complexity of craniofacial syndromes, the majority of affected individuals will often endure multiple surgeries before they reach adulthood; and

Whereas, there is a lack of education and information disseminated to the general public about individuals with facial differences; and

Whereas, organizations such as Children's Craniofacial Association, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, serves populations affected by craniofacial differences and the professions who care for them; In order to empower and give hope to individuals and families affected by these facial differences, while working towards the vision of a world where all people are accepted for who they are, not how they look; and

Whereas, Children's Craniofacial Association has designated September of 2024 as the 20th year of *Craniofacial Acceptance Month*.

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


Craniofacial Acceptance 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 Ninetieth day of August, 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