

# Proclamation

## by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** the West Virginia Board of Osteopathy was established in 1923 to provide professional licensing parity with allopathic physicians, and 2024 marks 150 years of osteopathic medicine; and
- Whereas,** The Osteopathic profession's history began with the innovative and thoughtful mind of physician Andrew Taylor Still, MD, DO, who, after losing his four children, reevaluated the existing practice of medicine and began setting down the tenets of osteopathic medicine in 1874, changing the trajectory of modern health care delivery; and
- Whereas,** in 1902, eight physicians formed the WV Society of Osteopathic Medicine, now known as the West Virginia Osteopathic Medical Association, to promote the interests and influence of the Osteopathic profession in West Virginia.; and
- Whereas,** the unique approach of osteopathic medicine enables DOs to provide patients with the most comprehensive level of care found in medicine today; and
- Whereas,** Osteopathic Physicians have made significant contributions to the healthcare system of the United States and play a critical role in public health preparedness and working on the front lines treating patients; and
- Whereas,** the Osteopathic profession has grown exponentially since its inception to include 41 colleges in 66 locations across 35 states; including the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine; and
- Whereas,** the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine is the largest medical school in WV; and
- Whereas,** Osteopathic Physicians train and practice in all medical specialties and practice settings, in every State and across international boundaries and now there are now more than 197,000 osteopathic physicians and osteopathic medical students in the United States; and
- Whereas,** West Virginia's 1,600 osteopathic physicians are dedicated to improving the health of their communities through patient-centered care focused on treating the body, mind, and spirit; and
- Whereas,** Osteopathic Physicians serve the citizens of West Virginia, in acknowledgement of the need for Physicians who are committed to improving the health of our nation, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, national origin or citizenship status, sex, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, sexual orientation, age, disability, or military status; and
- Whereas,** the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine is the largest medical school in WV; and
- Whereas,** The WV Osteopathic Medical Association and the American Osteopathic Association represent the interests of ALL osteopathic physicians licensed in the Great State of West Virginia, regardless of specialty or practice type – ensuring their voice is heard and the public understands the distinctive approach DOs bring to the practice of medicine.

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

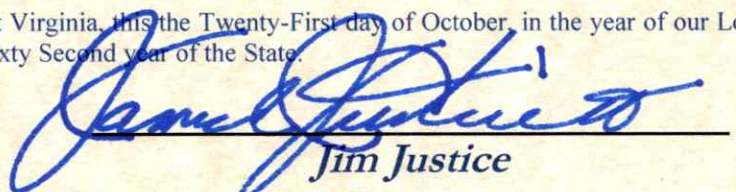
## *Osteopathic Medicine Month*

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in observance recognizing West Virginia's current and future Osteopathic Physicians, the contributions of the WV Osteopathic Medical Association, the American Osteopathic Association, The WV Board of Osteopathic Medicine, and the WV School of Osteopathic Medicine for their roles in ensuring and advancing quality healthcare in our state.

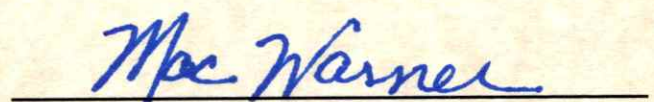
**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

**Done** at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Twenty-First 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