

# Proclamation

## by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** an ostomy is a surgical procedure to create an opening (stoma) in the abdomen to allow for the removal of bodily waste (urine, stool) when a person loses the normal function of the digestive or urinary systems due to birth defects, severe abdominal or pelvic trauma, colorectal cancer, bladder cancer, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, and other medical conditions; and
- Whereas,** the bodily waste passes through the stoma into an ostomy 'pouch' that is attached to the abdomen, or into an internal surgically created reservoir in the case of continent diversion surgeries; and
- Whereas,** approximately 725,000 to 1 million Americans (1 in 500) have an ostomy, with approximately 100,000 new ostomy procedures performed each year; and
- Whereas,** ostomy or continent diversion surgery can occur at any age and affects people from all ethnic backgrounds; and
- Whereas,** through the efforts of the United Ostomy Associations of American, Inc., (UOAA) and its over 275 Affiliated Support Groups in the United States, including the Charleston Area Ostomy Association in the state of West Virginia, many Americans needing these surgeries are becoming more aware of the opportunities for education, assistance, advocacy, and support that are of great benefit to them and their families; and
- Whereas,** the United States of America celebrates *Ostomy Awareness Day* annually on the first Saturday of October; and
- Whereas,** the Wound Institute in Charleston, West Virginia is committed to increasing public knowledge of "ostomy" to help dispel the fear of those about to experience surgery and the fear that affects their families. This day can serve as a reminder to the American public that "ostomies" are lifesaving and life-restoring surgeries; and
- Whereas,** the Wound Institute in Charleston, West Virginia acknowledges that public education and awareness are fundamental to ensure those living with an ostomy encounter no discrimination and are accepted as normal, healthy individuals. Myths, stigma, and embarrassment that are sometimes associated with having an ostomy can be erased through education, and awareness; and
- Whereas,** the Wound Institute in Charleston, West Virginia, and other government and private sectors are deeply committed to the proper care and advancement of knowledge about bowel and urinary diversion surgery as a result of birth defects, disease, injury, and other digestive disorders; and
- Whereas,** to increase public acceptance and awareness of ostomy and continent diversion surgery and to help Americans better understand that ostomies are lifesavers, West Virginia is designating *Ostomy Awareness Day* on October 5, 2024.

**Now, Therefore,** Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim **October 5, 2024** as:

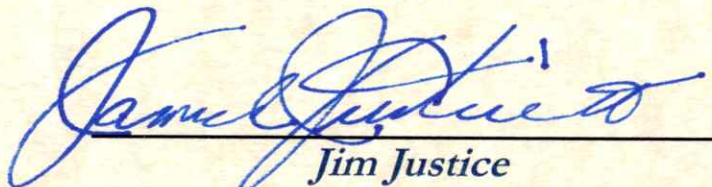
## *Ostomy Awareness Day*

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 Thirtieth day of July, 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