

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** we recognize that hunger is a persistent problem in West Virginia, with 1 in 9 individuals struggling daily with knowing where their next meal will come from; and
- Whereas,** food insecurity has highlighted the importance of our state's charitable food network; and
- Whereas,** before the pandemic 208,720 West Virginians struggled with food insecurity. Now, more than 320,000 of our neighbors are food insecure; and
- Whereas,** hunger impacts everyone in all walks of life; many working families struggle with hunger; and
- Whereas,** children are at a higher risk of hunger with 1 in 7 children not having enough food to get them through the day; a hungry child cannot learn, a hungry child cannot grow; and
- Whereas,** 57,000 seniors are particularly at-risk as they make choices daily on whether they eat nutritional foods or pay other bills including medical bills and utilities; and
- Whereas,** West Virginia has a strong network of nonprofits, including two food banks and over 600 community feeding programs whose focus is strengthening communities; where together over 35 million pounds of food were distributed to those in need in 2023.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *January 23, 2024* as:

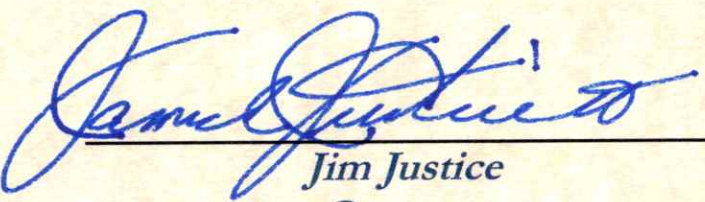
Hunger Free West Virginia Day

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.

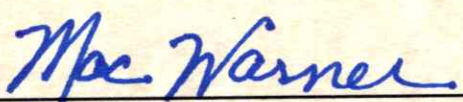
In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Twenty-Third day of January, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Four, and in the One Hundred Sixty-First year of the State.




Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:


Mac Warner
Secretary of State