

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** March is recognized as National Kidney Month, it is an important opportunity to raise public awareness and understanding of rare kidney diseases, such as APOL1 mediated kidney disease; and
- Whereas,** APOL1 genetic variants account for much of the excess risk of chronic and end stage kidney disease for persons of African ancestry, including people who identify as African American, Afro-Caribbean, and Latinx; and
- Whereas,** APOL1 explains the disproportionate rate of kidney disease in people of African ancestry; African Americans make up 13% of the United States population, but account for 32% of all kidney failure and 35% of all end stage kidney disease; in addition, African Americans are 4X more likely to develop kidney failure than White Americans; and
- Whereas,** APOL1 mediated kidney disease is driven by genetic factors and is underdiagnosed; and
- Whereas,** symptoms do not present until kidney damage is advanced; symptoms include fatigue, swelling in the legs and feet and weight gain, among others; and
- Whereas,** increasing public awareness and understanding of the genetic causes of rare kidney disease could lead to early diagnosis and care for some of the most vulnerable populations and empower and educate those at risk on how they can manage it.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *March 2022* as:


Rare Kidney Disease Awareness 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 Seventh day of March, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Two, and in the One Hundred Fifty-Ninth year of the State.




Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:


Mac Warner
Secretary of State