## Proclamation by Governor Jim Justice

Whereas, Vascular Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (VEDS) is a life-threatening genetic connective tissue condition that can cause spontaneous life-threatening emergencies of the blood vessels and hollow organs, can cause varying degrees of disability, pain, and muscular skeletal issues, and can result in life-long health challenges and early death; and

Whereas, it is estimated that 1 in 50,000 individuals worldwide are born with VEDS; and

Whereas, VEDS is a lifelong, incurable, potentially debilitating, and life-threatening genetic condition, and timely diagnosis and lifestyle modifications are essential; and

Whereas, VEDS is often misdiagnosed and underdiagnosed; and

Whereas, VEDS is frequently mistaken for other forms of Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, some of which do not carry the same risks for life-threatening emergencies; and

Whereas, through public awareness, the state of West Virginia seeks to raise awareness of VEDS in order to properly diagnosis and care for individuals affected by VEDS; and

Whereas, further medical research and awareness can provide hope for a treatment and a cure for VEDS.

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

## Vascular Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome Action 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 Twenty-First day of September, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Two, and in the One Hundred Sixtieth year of the State.



Jim Justice Governor

By the Governor:

Mac Warner Secretary of State