

# Proclamation

## by Governor Jim Justice

**Whereas,** more than 9 million Americans suffer with gout, the most common form of inflammatory arthritis, caused by uric acid build-up in the joints; and

**Whereas,** gout is a chronic disease characterized by sudden and excruciating painful attacks; and

**Whereas,** gout impacts a patient's workplace, community, and daily quality of life; and

**Whereas,** Black Americans are two to three times more likely to develop gout than White Americans, and are less likely to be prescribed urate-lowering medications or receive ongoing, routine provider care; and

**Whereas,** Asian Americans and Asian Pacific Islanders are also at an increased risk of gout; and

**Whereas,** stigma, lack of awareness and misinformation may hinder treatment for gout, a chronic disease characterized by sudden and excruciating attacks; and

**Whereas,** heightening public awareness can reduce the unfair stigma people with gout experience, and empower patients to seek quality care and timely treatment.

**Now, Therefore,** Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *May 22, 2023* as:

### *Gout Awareness 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 Fifth day of April, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three, and in the One Hundred Sixtieth year of the State.



  
Jim Justice  
Governor

*By the Governor:*

  
Mac Warner  
Secretary of State