Proclamation by Governor Jim Justice

Whereas, children are key to the state's future success, prosperity, and quality of life and while children are our most valuable resource, they are our most vulnerable; and

Whereas, preventing child abuse and neglect is a community responsibility that depends on involvement among people throughout the community; and

Whereas, child abuse and neglect can be prevented by supporting and strengthening West Virginia's families, thus preventing the far-reaching effects of maltreatment, providing the opportunity for children to develop healthy, trusting family bonds, and consequently building the foundations of communities; and

Whereas, we must come together as partners so that families are uplifted and the voices of our children are heard by all as we are a community extending a helping hand to children and families in need; and

Whereas, by providing a safe and nurturing environment for our children, free of violence, abuse and neglect, we can ensure that West Virginia's children will grow to their full potential as the next generation of leaders, helping to secure the future of this state and nation.

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

Family Strengthening and Child Abuse Prevention Month

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to help prevent the abuse of children.

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 First day of April, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Four, and in the One Hundred Sixty-First year of the State.

SENCES 1/253

Jim Justice Governor

By the Governor:

Mac Warner Secretary of State