

# Proclamation

## by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** *National Fentanyl Awareness Day* is May 7, 2024, a day of activation that aims to raise public awareness about an urgent problem in which people are dying at alarming rates due to illegally made Fentanyl, a dangerous synthetic opioid; and
- Whereas,** fentanyl is involved in more deaths of Americans under age 50 than any other cause of death, including heart disease, cancer, and all other accidents; and
- Whereas,** fentanyl is odorless, tasteless, cheap, and extremely potent. It is often found in fake pills disguised as Oxycontin, Percocet, Xanax, and Vicodin, which can be deadly; and
- Whereas,** overdose deaths linked to synthetic opioids like fentanyl tripled among teenagers in the last two years; and
- Whereas,** in West Virginia alone, Fentanyl shows a nearly 100% increase in causation of overdoses from 2020 to 2022; and
- Whereas,** 35% of American teens aged 13 to 17 don't know enough about Fentanyl to rate its danger; and
- Whereas,** we must encourage relatives and friends of people with mental and substance use disorders to implement preventive measures, recognize the signs of a problem, and guide those in need to appropriate treatment and recovery support services; and
- Whereas,** recovery from alcohol and other drug use occurs every day through a variety of recovery support resources and treatment programs; and
- Whereas,** to raise awareness and prevent overdose caused by Fentanyl, as the West Virginia Department of Human Services' Office of Drug Control Policy invites all residents of the State of West Virginia to participate in Fentanyl Awareness Day; and

**Now, Therefore,** Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *May 7, 2024* as:

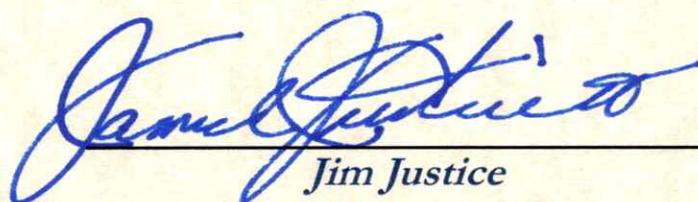
### *Fentanyl Awareness Day*

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in 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 May, 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