

Proclamation

by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- Whereas,** the most well-known and common facial difference is Cleft Lip/Palate, which is seen in 1 in 750 births a year worldwide; other facial differences like craniosynostosis are still quite common, seen in 1 in 2,500 births annually; many more children are born with dozens of additional facial differences, including Apert syndrome, Treacher Collins syndrome, microtia, facial palsy, and more, which occur in over 1,500 births a year in the United States alone; and
- Whereas,** individuals with craniofacial differences and their families often struggle to understand what they are facing and how to move forward in their early stages of life; families are often under emotional and financial strain due to demands resulting from ongoing and expensive medical treatment; and
- Whereas,** due to the complexity of craniofacial syndromes, the majority of affected individuals will often endure multiple surgeries before they reach adulthood; and
- Whereas,** there is a lack of public education and information disseminated to the general public about individuals with facial differences and children with facial differences face bullying on average 30% more often than children without differences; and
- Whereas,** nonprofit organizations serve populations affected by craniofacial differences and the professions who care for them; and
- Whereas,** raising awareness is essential to fostering understanding, promoting acceptance, and offering hope to individuals and families affected by facial differences.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *September 2025* as:

Craniofacial Acceptance Month

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.

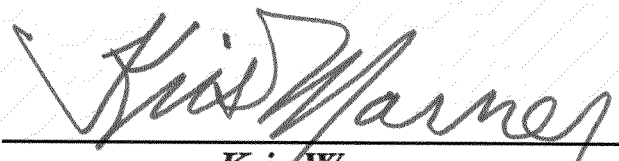
In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the First day of September, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Five and in the One Hundred Sixty-Third Year of the State.



Patrick Morrisey
Governor

By the Governor:



Kris Warner
Secretary of State