

# Proclamation

## by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- Whereas,** an ostomy is a type of surgery that creates an opening (stoma) in the abdomen that allows for the removal of bodily waste when a person has lost the normal function of the digestive or urinary systems due to birth defects, colorectal cancer, bladder cancer, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, and other medical conditions; and
- Whereas,** an ostomy is also necessary in cases of severe abdominal or pelvic trauma resulting from accidents or from injuries sustained during military service; and
- Whereas,** approximately 725,000 to 1 million Americans have an ostomy, with approximately 100,000 new ostomy procedures performed each year; and
- Whereas,** ostomy or continent diversion surgery can occur at any age and affects people from all ethnic backgrounds; and
- Whereas,** the United States of America celebrates *Ostomy Awareness Day* annually on the first Saturday of October; and
- Whereas,** to increase public acceptance and awareness of ostomy and continent diversion surgery and to help Americans better understand that ostomies are lifesavers, West Virginia is designating *Ostomy Awareness Day* on October 4, 2025.


**Now, Therefore,** Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim **October 4, 2025**, as:

### *Ostomy Awareness Day*

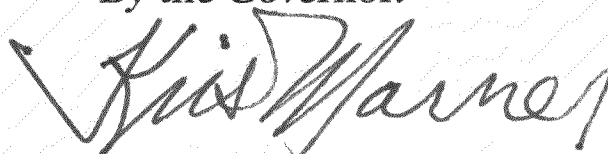
in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in observance.

**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 Fourth Day of October, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Five, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Third Year of the State.

  
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**Patrick Morrisey**  
Governor

**By the Governor:**

  
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**Kris Warner**  
Secretary of State