

# Proclamation

## by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- Whereas,** Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is a progressive lung disease caused by damage to the airways or parts of the lungs that block airflow and make it difficult to breathe; and
- Whereas,** an estimated 30 million Americans are affected by COPD, but only 17 million have been diagnosed; and
- Whereas,** the death rate for COPD has doubled since 1969, even as the number of deaths from other chronic conditions has declined; and
- Whereas,** COPD is the fourth leading cause of disability and the sixth leading cause of death in the United States; and
- Whereas,** the projected cost attributable to COPD in 2029 is \$60.5 billion, nearly twice the estimated costs of \$31.3 billion in 2019; and
- Whereas,** while the primary risk factor for COPD is smoking, approximately 25 percent of people with COPD have never smoked; and
- Whereas,** other risk factors for COPD include long-term exposure to lung irritants and air pollutants, a history of asthma or childhood respiratory infections, alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, and underdeveloped lungs; and
- Whereas,** people living in poverty and rural communities are at higher risk for COPD, and although the disease is not curable, it is both preventable and treatable; and
- Whereas,** state and local health departments play a pivotal role in chronic disease prevention, tobacco prevention, general health promotion and education, and the promotion of other relevant health initiatives, all of which can help inform the public about COPD.

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

## *Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness Month*

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

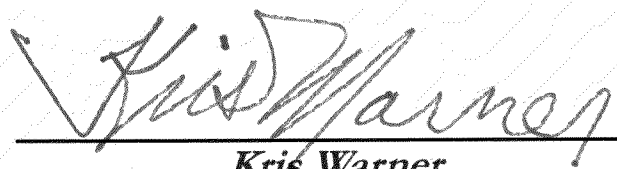
**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

**Done** at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the First Day of November, 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