

# Proclamation

## by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- Whereas,** May 12th is *National Fibromyalgia Awareness Day*; and
- Whereas,** Fibromyalgia afflicts 4-6 percent of the population in the United States, meaning approximately 14 million to 20 million Americans in the U.S. and 7,076 - 10,614 West Virginians have Fibromyalgia; and
- Whereas,** while Fibromyalgia is often cited as a “woman’s illness,” research indicates approximately 40% of sufferers are men, and children/teenagers are afflicted as well, demonstrating that Fibromyalgia affects people of all demographics; and
- Whereas,** according to Veteran Voices For Fibromyalgia, approximately 124,200 Military Service Members and 1,056,000 Veterans are officially diagnosed with Fibromyalgia; and
- Whereas,** due to the interference of internal bodily systems, people living with Fibromyalgia often develop several co-existing medical conditions, which may include Chronic Myofascial Pain, Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS), Raynaud’s Syndrome, Interstitial Cystitis (IC), Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS), Peripheral Neuropathy, Anxiety, Depression, and Chemical and Environmental Sensitivities (Source: Mayo Clinic); and
- Whereas,** due to a lack of definitive diagnostic testing for Fibromyalgia, it takes 3–5 years on average before a person is typically diagnosed, and accordingly, the National Fibromyalgia Health Organization identifies the time frame between medical research and clinical practice is approximately 17–20 years; and
- Whereas,** increased awareness by the public, licensed medical providers, healthcare systems, and policymakers of the daily multifaceted management challenges of Fibromyalgia and its impact on a person’s daily functioning and quality of life and increased understanding of the illness will reduce its stigma.
- Now, Therefore,** Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *May 12, 2026*, as:

## *National Fibromyalgia Awareness Day*

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 Twelfth day of May, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Six and in the One Hundred Sixty-Third year of the State.



*Patrick Morrisey*  
Governor

*By the Governor:*



*Kris Warner*  
Secretary of State