

Proclamation

by Governor Patrick Morrisey

Whereas, colorectal cancer is the fourth most common cancer and the fourth most common cause of cancer related death among men and women in West Virginia; and

Whereas, colorectal cancer is often thought of as a disease that only affects older people, but the reality is that the faces of colorectal cancer are changing; over the past four decades, rates of colorectal cancer have steadily increased in people under the age of 50; and

Whereas, by 2030, colorectal cancer is on track to become the number one cancer killer of all people ages 20-49; and

Whereas, rural Americans are more likely to be diagnosed and die from colorectal cancer than those in urban areas; and

Whereas, colorectal cancer, if detected early through screening, can be prevented or effectively treated; and

Whereas, despite the availability of a variety of screening modalities for average-risk patients, including tests that can be done at home, more than one-third of West Virginians are not being screened; hundreds of West Virginian deaths could be avoided if people are screened appropriately and on time; and

Whereas, education, awareness, and access to screening tools are essential to colorectal cancer prevention and early detection; and

Whereas, declaring March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month and March 6 as Dress in Blue Day, are concrete steps our State can take to raise awareness and help prevent this disease, as well as honor the families in our State who have been impacted by this cancer.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *March 2026* as:

Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

do hereby proclaim, *March 6, 2026*, as:

Dress in Blue Day

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

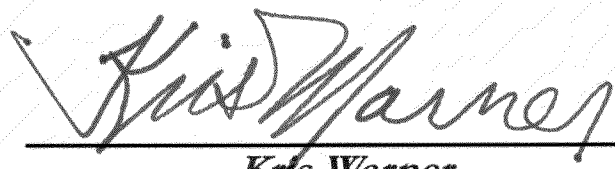
In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

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