

# Proclamation

*by Governor Patrick Morrisey*

- Whereas,** Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder (NMOSD) is a rare autoimmune disease that affects an individual's spinal cord and optic nerves; and
- Whereas,** NMOSD occurs when the body's immune system attacks its own cells and may cause permanent disability, including blindness and paralysis; and
- Whereas,** testing for NMOSD diagnosis can be extensive, often requiring physical examinations, laboratory tests, electrophysiology analysis, or imaging studies; and
- Whereas,** despite advancements in research, treatments for NMOSD remain limited, and the disease is often misdiagnosed, which can lead to exacerbated NMOSD symptoms due to improper treatment; and
- Whereas,** while increased awareness of NMOSD has helped doctors to better recognize and diagnose the varying manifestations of the disease, more needs to be done to ensure greater awareness in the medical community and general population; and
- Whereas,** the Mountain State partners with dedicated individuals, advocates, and organizations statewide to raise awareness and understanding of NMOSD, thereby promoting research, improving patient care and outcomes, and ultimately aiming to find a cure.

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

## *Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder Awareness 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 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