

# Proclamation

## by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- Whereas,** mental health is a critical component of overall health and well-being, particularly during adolescence, when young people experience rapid physical, emotional, and social development; and
- Whereas,** the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) in West Virginia is leading a statewide effort alongside hundreds of partners, schools, health care providers, families, and advocates to raise awareness of mental health needs and available resources for West Virginia teens ages 12–18; and
- Whereas,** recent data indicate that approximately one in five adolescents in West Virginia experiences a mental health condition, yet a significant number of young people do not receive the care or support they need; and
- Whereas,** West Virginia continues to face one of the highest youth suicide rates in the nation, underscoring the urgent need for early intervention, prevention, and open conversations about mental health; and
- Whereas,** increasing awareness, reducing stigma, and connecting teens and families to evidence-based mental health resources can save lives and strengthen communities; and
- Whereas,** this proclamation marks the first time the State of West Virginia has formally recognized *Teen Mental Health Awareness Week*, reflecting a growing commitment to prioritizing the mental health and well-being of adolescents across the Mountain State; and
- Whereas,** *Teen Mental Health Awareness Week* provides an opportunity to elevate youth voices, support caregivers and educators, and promote collaboration across public, private, and nonprofit sectors to improve outcomes for West Virginia’s young people.

**Now, Therefore,** Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim, *March 2-6, 2026*, as:

### *Teen Mental Health Awareness Week*

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 Second 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