

Proclamation

by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- Whereas,** the first years of a child's life are the period of the most rapid brain development and lay the foundation for all future learning; and
- Whereas,** 66% of children have both parents in the workforce and 64% of the population lives in a child care desert; and
- Whereas,** providing high-quality early childhood programs provides important benefits to children, families, and our state and national economies; and
- Whereas,** a child's cognitive, physical, social, emotional, and language and literacy development are built on a foundation of children's positive interactions with adults, peers, and their environment; and
- Whereas,** high quality early childhood development depends on early childhood education to ensure that children, supported by families, have the early experiences they need for a strong foundation; and
- Whereas,** young children need skilled, educated, competent, and consistent early childhood educators; and
- Whereas,** working families need sufficient high quality child care spaces beginning at birth to be available in the community; and
- Whereas,** children need developmentally appropriate, accessible, and available early care and education settings.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim, *April 11-17, 2026*, as:

The Week of the Young Child

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

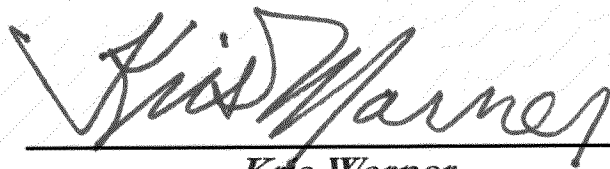
In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Eleventh day of April, 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