

Proclamation

by Governor Patrick Morrisey

Whereas, a stroke is the leading cause of death and a primary cause of long-term disability in the United States, affecting nearly 800,000 individuals each year; and

Whereas, a stroke occurs when blood flow to the brain is interrupted or reduced, depriving brain tissue of oxygen and nutrients and causing brain cells to begin to die within minutes; and

Whereas, early recognition of stroke warning signs and immediate medical attention can significantly improve outcomes, reduce disability, and save lives; and

Whereas, the acronym B.E.F.A.S.T - Balance/dizziness, Eyes and vision change, Face drooping, Arm or leg weakness, Speech difficulty, and sensory changes, Time to call 911 - serves as a simple and effective tool to help the public recognize the most common signs of stroke; and

Whereas, rapid treatment, including clot-busting medications and other interventions, is most effective when administered as soon as possible after symptoms begin; and

Whereas, many strokes are preventable through management of risk factors such as high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, smoking, obesity, and physical inactivity; and

Whereas, increasing public awareness, promoting healthy lifestyles, and improving access to timely medical care are critical to reducing the burden of stroke in our communities; and

Whereas, it is important to educate the public about stroke prevention, recognition, and response, and to support stroke survivors and their families.

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

Stroke Awareness Month

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 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