

Proclamation

by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- Whereas,** *Foster Care Awareness Month* is observed each May to recognize the vital role foster parents, kinship caregivers, child welfare professionals, and community partners play in supporting children and youth who have experienced abuse, neglect, or family crisis; and
- Whereas,** thousands of children and youth across West Virginia enter foster care each year and require safe, stable, and nurturing homes to support their physical, emotional, and developmental well-being; and
- Whereas,** foster parents and kinship caregivers open their hearts and homes to children in need, often during times of great uncertainty, and their compassion and dedication make a lasting difference in the lives of West Virginia's youth; and
- Whereas,** partnerships between local government, community organizations, and child-serving agencies are essential to raising awareness, increasing foster parent recruitment, and strengthening outcomes for children and families; and
- Whereas,** these organizations serve children, youth, and families, providing trauma-informed foster care, kinship care, and family support services throughout the state of West Virginia; and
- Whereas,** these organizations often recruit, train, and support foster and kinship families to ensure children remain connected to their communities while receiving individualized care and advocacy; and
- Whereas,** recognizing *Foster Care Awareness Month* helps educate the public, dispel misconceptions about foster care, and encourage community members to consider how they can support children and families impacted by the child welfare system.

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

Foster Care 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