

Proclamation

by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- Whereas,** mental health is a critical component of our overall well-being, encompassing our emotional, psychological, and social health and influences how we think, feel, act, manage stress, relate to others, and make choices; and
- Whereas,** mental health conditions are prevalent across all ages, affecting 21 percent of children ages 3 to 17 in the United States and 20 percent of adults nationally; and
- Whereas,** in 2024 alone, 15.4 percent of adolescents aged 12 to 17 and 8.2 percent of adults aged 18 and older experienced a major depressive episode in the previous year; and
- Whereas,** suicide is a major public health crisis, it is the 11th leading cause of death overall and the second for ages 10 to 34. While rates rose roughly 37 percent between 2000 to 2018 and dipped briefly in 2019 to 2020, they returned to peak levels in 2021 to 2022, and dropped 3 percent by 2024, reaching 48,824 deaths; and
- Whereas,** screening and psychological interventions have been identified as cost-effective preventive measures for mental disorders in children and adolescents, and for trainings such as Mental Health First Aid, which are proven to reduce stigma and increase knowledge and awareness of common mental health and substance use challenges.

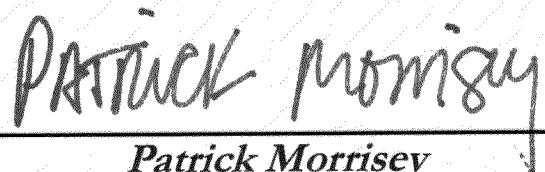
Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *May 2026* as:

Mental Health 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 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