

Proclamation

by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- Whereas,** West Virginia is home to approximately 1.76 million residents and consistently ranks among the states with the highest mobility-disability rates in the nation, with an estimated 260,000–315,000 residents experiencing mobility-related limitations; and
- Whereas,** mobility disability is the most common disability in the United States, affecting 12.2 percent of adults, and is especially prevalent among older adults, with 1 in 4 individuals over age 65 experiencing mobility limitations; and
- Whereas,** more than 18 million people in the United States and Canada live with mobility challenges, and over 6 million Americans rely on mobility devices, such as wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, and adaptive driving equipment; and
- Whereas,** transportation remains the number one barrier to employment for people with disabilities, and nearly 25 percent of disabled adults miss medical appointments due to lack of accessible transportation, contributing to poorer health outcomes and reduced community participation; and
- Whereas,** rural communities face unique challenges related to mobility access, including long travel distances, limited public transit, and a shortage of accessible vehicles and trained mobility equipment technicians; and
- Whereas,** accessible transportation is essential for ensuring access to education, employment, healthcare, recreation, and civic engagement for individuals with disabilities; and
- Whereas,** National Mobility Awareness Month encourages communities, policymakers, and organizations to promote adaptive vehicle programs, accessibility improvements, and public awareness initiatives that support independence and quality of life; and
- Whereas,** increasing public understanding of mobility challenges helps reduce stigma and encourages communities to support accessibility improvements that enhance independence for individuals with disabilities; and
- Whereas,** recognizing May as National Mobility Awareness Month in West Virginia will help elevate statewide awareness, encourage collaboration among disability organizations, and inspire efforts to expand accessible transportation options for all residents.

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

National Mobility 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