

# Proclamation

## by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- Whereas,** Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Awareness Month is nationally recognized each September to increase understanding of spinal cord injuries, their causes, and their lifelong impact on individuals, families and communities; and
- Whereas,** the first national recognition of spinal cord injury awareness occurred in October 1982, when President Ronald Reagan issued a Presidential Proclamation designating National Spinal Cord Injury Month; and
- Whereas,** September was later established as National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month in the early 1990s, with formal national recognition strengthened in 1992 and reaffirmed by renewed designation in 2012; and
- Whereas,** an estimated 305,000-308,000 Americans are currently living with traumatic spinal cord injuries, with approximately 18,000 new cases occurring each year in the United States; and
- Whereas,** when including non-traumatic spinal cord injuries, such as those caused by tumors, infections, vascular events, degenerative conditions, and surgical complications, as well as unreported cases and individuals who died before hospital admission, experts estimate that more than 800,000 Americans have experienced a spinal cord injury; and
- Whereas,** an estimated 1,600-1,800 West Virginians are living with spinal cord injuries, reflecting the significant impact of SCI on individuals and families throughout the State; and
- Whereas,** vehicle crashes and falls remain the leading cause of spinal cord injuries, accounting for nearly 70% of all new cases, with violence and sports-related injuries representing additional significant causes; and
- Whereas,** incomplete tetraplegia is now the most common neurological outcome of spinal cord injury, and less than 1% of individuals experience full neurological recovery by the time of hospital discharge; and
- Whereas,** people with spinal cord injuries face increased risks of secondary medical complications, including pressure injuries, respiratory issues, chronic pain, and autonomic dysfunction, many of which are preventable with proper care and community support; and
- Whereas,** recognizing September as Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month encourages communities, healthcare providers, and policymakers to support prevention initiatives, accessibility improvements, and expanded resources for individuals with spinal cord injuries.

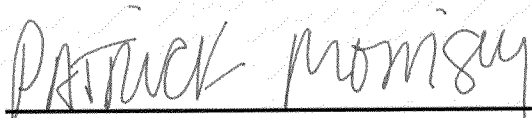
**Now, Therefore,** Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *September 2026* as:

## *Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month*

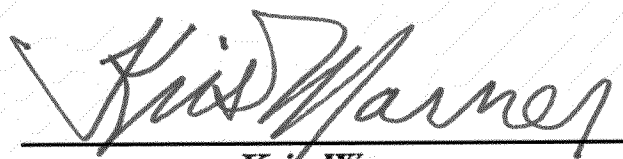
in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in observance.

**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 Thirteenth Day of August, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Six, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Fourth Year of the State.

  
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**Patrick Morrisey**  
Governor

*By the Governor:*

  
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**Kris Warner**  
Secretary of State