Proclamation by Governor Jim Justice

Whereas, nearly 13,000 people will hear the words "you have cancer," for the first time and will begin their battle against the disease this year in West Virginia; and

Whereas, cancer impacts patients and caregivers and is a health and economic burden for families and the State of West Virginia. It is vital that evidence-based programs and resources are in place to reduce tobacco usage and taxpayer-funded health care costs; and

Whereas, the top three cancer sites for West Virginia are lung, breast, and prostate cancer; and

Whereas, a substantial portion of cancer can be prevented, including all cancers caused by tobacco use. Smoking is responsible for 4,300 deaths in West Virginia each year, including 37.8% of cancer deaths; and

Whereas, the nation's leading cancer-fighting advocacy organization, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is working to end cancer as we know it for everyone.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *August 25-31, 2024* as:

Lights of Hope Week

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 Eighteenth day of July, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Four, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Second year of the State.

SENSE STATES

Jim Justice

Governor

By the Governor:

Mac Warner
Secretary of State