

Proclamation

by Governor Joe Manchin III

Whereas, Stevens Johnson syndrome (SJS) is an immune complex hypersensitivity reaction that can be caused from an infection or immune response to drugs, with the most severe form of SJS being toxic epidermal necrolysis (TENS); and,

Whereas, it affects all ages and genders, including pediatric populations, and occurs twice as often in men as in women; and,

Whereas, most cases of SJS appear in children and young adults under age 30, with females being twice as likely to develop TENS; and,

Whereas, according to the New England Journal of Medicine, more than 2 million Americans fall ill and are hospitalized every year from taking prescription and over the counter drugs, and of the 2 million that are admitted, more than 140,000 die; and,

Whereas, because numerous cases are misdiagnosed as chicken pox, measles, scarlet fever or flu, recognizing the early symptoms of SJS and receiving prompt medical attention are the most valuable tools in minimizing possible long-term effects of SJS;

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Joe Manchin III, Governor of the State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *August 2007* as:

Stevens Johnson Syndrome Awareness Month

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to increase awareness of this devastating disorder

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 Thirtieth day of July, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Seven, and in the One Hundred Forty-fifth year of the State.





Joe Manchin III

Governor

By the Governor:



Betty Ireland