

The State of Maryland



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

JUNE 2ND, 2023

- WHEREAS,** *protecting public safety in the communities they serve is among a governor's highest responsibilities; and*
- WHEREAS,** *every day, more than 120 Americans are killed by gun violence and more than 200 are shot and wounded, with an average of more than 17,000 gun homicides every year; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Maryland has hundreds of gun deaths every year, with a rate of 13.3 deaths per 100,000 people, a crisis that costs the state 10.5 billion dollars each year, of which 383.9 million dollars is paid by taxpayers. Maryland has the 31st highest rate of gun deaths in the US; and*
- WHEREAS,** *support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from people that shouldn't have them; and*
- WHEREAS,** *in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was tragically shot and killed at age 15; and on June 2nd, 2023 to recognize the 26th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton (born: June 2, 1997), people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day and wear orange in tribute to -*
- (1) Hadiya Pendleton and other victims of gun violence; and*
 - (2) the loved ones of those victims; and*
- WHEREAS,** *we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the hands of people who should not have access to them, and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our families and communities safe.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WES MOORE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim JUNE 2nd, 2023 as NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY in Maryland, and call this observance to the attention of all citizens to encourage all Marylanders to support their communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
this 2nd day of June
Two Thousand and twenty-three



[Signature]
Governor

Oruna Miller

[Signature]
Lt. Governor

Susan C. Lee
Secretary of State