



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, colorectal cancer is the fourth-leading cause of cancer deaths in Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, colorectal cancer is one of the few cancers that can be prevented with timely screening, but 1 in 4 eligible Tennesseans are not up to date on screening; and

**WHEREAS**, colorectal cancer is a leading cause of cancer death among people under 50 in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Black Tennesseans are 13% more likely to be diagnosed with colorectal cancer and 30% more likely to die from the disease than other groups; and

**WHEREAS**, colorectal cancer is expected to account for 11% of cancer deaths among Hispanic men and 9% of cancer deaths for Hispanic women; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2019 there were 3,239 new cases of colorectal cancer and 1,258 deaths due to colorectal cancer in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the national goal established by the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable is to increase timely colorectal cancer screening rates to 80 percent in every community for all Americans eligible for screening; and

**WHEREAS**, observing a Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month during the month of March would provide a special opportunity to increase awareness and offer education on the importance of early detection and screening of colorectal cancer;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2024 as

*Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month*

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this twenty-eighth day of February, 2024.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Joe Hargis*

Secretary of State