



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Healthcare Decisions Day is designed to raise public awareness of the need to plan ahead for health care decisions for end-of-life care or life-threatening emergencies and to encourage the specific use of advance directives to communicate these important health care decisions when patients are unable to speak for themselves; and

WHEREAS, more than half of working-age adult Tennesseans don't have a living will, health care proxy or advance directive for health care; and

WHEREAS, research has demonstrated that people who participate in advance care planning reap many benefits: They are more likely to have their end-of-life wishes known and respected, and patients and their families are more satisfied with the care received after they have these conversations with doctors; and

WHEREAS, individuals with advance directives are less likely to receive unwanted aggressive medical treatments in their last weeks of their life, less likely to die in the hospital or intensive care unit and more likely to enroll in palliative care that supports patients and their families in the final phase of terminal illness with a focus on comfort and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, many employers across the state are demonstrating their commitment to develop programs that help employees and their loved ones cope with the realities of end-of-life; and

WHEREAS, Honoring Choices Tennessee, a statewide coalition of state agencies, private industry, health care associations and other organizations throughout Tennessee have endorsed this event and are committed to educating the workforce and general public about the importance of discussing health care choices and executing advance directives; and

WHEREAS, Healthcare Decisions Day in Tennessee will encourage more Tennesseans to have conversations about their health care choices and executing advance directives;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim April 16, 2019 as

Health Care Decisions Day

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 seventh day of February, 2019.

Bill Lee

Governor

Judith Gatt

Secretary of State

