



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, according to the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, more than 106,000 adults and children in Tennessee have developmental disabilities, and the vast majority of these individuals are primarily or solely supported throughout their lifespan by their families; and

WHEREAS, people with developmental disabilities share with all Tennesseans the desire to achieve personal success through education, meaningful work, and family and community ties; and

WHEREAS, people with developmental disabilities deserve equal opportunities to enjoy, participate in and contribute to their local communities alongside their neighbors without disabilities; and

WHEREAS, all Tennesseans have valuable strengths, infinite capacity to learn and make decisions, and the capability to make important contributions to their communities; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is therefore committed to encouraging and supporting communities to remove barriers that limit participation of individuals with disabilities in all areas of community life; and

WHEREAS, "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month" is an appropriate time to recognize Tennessee's public policy accomplishments concerning persons with disabilities and to also identify improvements to public policy that facilitate full inclusion of Tennessee's citizens with developmental disabilities and their families;

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

Developmental Disabilities 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 seventh day of February, 2019.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Lee".

Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lee Hargett".

Secretary of State

