



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, sarcoidosis is a potentially debilitating and deadly multi-organ, inflammatory disease, estimated to affect 200,000 people in the United States with no known cause, cure, or reliable treatments to slow or halt the progression of chronic cases; and

WHEREAS, the signs and symptoms of sarcoidosis vary widely depending on the person and organs affected and include debilitating fatigue; shortness of breath; difficulties with balance and coordination; irregular heartbeat; visual problems, including blindness; pain affecting joints and muscles; weakness or numbness of limbs, skin rash and discoloration; mood disorders such as depression and anxiety; organ failures; and sleep difficulties; and

WHEREAS, sarcoidosis can affect people of any age, race, or gender, but is most common among adults between the ages of 20 and 40 and the rate of incidence is higher in African Americans than in other individuals;

WHEREAS, sarcoidosis is a diagnosis of exclusion as there is no objective test or biomarker; numerous diagnostic tests and ongoing clinical observation and/or management leads to high economic burden of this disease, including great costs to patients and family members;

WHEREAS, volunteers, researchers, caregivers, and medical professionals are working to improve the quality of life and prognosis of persons living with sarcoidosis and their families and more research is needed to find more effective treatments and improve care for those living with the disease today; and

WHEREAS, we salute those who demonstrate great courage and determination in their efforts to cope with the disease; and we pay tribute to their family members and to other concerned Americans who engage in mass efforts to promote awareness of sarcoidosis, as well as improved treatment and support for those affected by the disease;

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

Sarcoidosis 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 nineteenth day of February, 2019.

Bill Lee

Governor

Joe Hargett

Secretary of State

