



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Fabry disease is a rare, progressive, destructive, and potentially life-threatening inherited genetic disorder that causes children and adults to suffer a cascade of symptoms such as pain, reduced or inability to perspire, unexplained fevers, intolerance to heat and exercise, chronic gastrointestinal upset, chronic fatigue, anxiety and depression; and

**WHEREAS**, this disease may also lead to hearing loss, lung disease, heart disease, kidney disease, cerebrovascular disease, and other symptoms and often causes premature death in adults due to heart attacks, strokes and kidney failure; and

**WHEREAS**, Fabry disease is caused by deficient activity of the lysosomal enzyme alpha-galactosidase A which can result in harmful buildup of lipids in the body and lysosomal and cellular dysfunction; and

**WHEREAS**, there is an approved treatment, but this disease is severely under-recognized and misdiagnosed, and when diagnosed it is often after irreversible organ damage has occurred; and

**WHEREAS**, Fabry disease is inherited in an X-linked manner and is estimated to be present in about 1 in 40,000 to 60,000 males; with as many as twice this number of females potentially affected but with more varied symptoms than males; and

**WHEREAS**, pilot programs in the U.S. and newborn screening studies in other countries suggest there are likely many times more people with Fabry disease than current incidence rates indicate; and

**WHEREAS**, health care providers and families should be aware of Fabry disease symptoms and should know that, if suspected, an enzyme assay test for males and molecular DNA test for females can confirm this treatable disorder;

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

*Fabry Disease 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 fourth day of March, 2019.

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Governor

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Secretary of State

