



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Esophageal Cancer kills on average one American every 32 minutes; and

**WHEREAS**, Esophageal Cancer is among the deadliest of cancers with fewer than one in five patients surviving five years; and

**WHEREAS**, Esophageal Cancer can be a silent killer with patients often unaware that the heartburn, difficulty swallowing, cough, hoarse voice, sore throat or chest pain they suffer from may be symptoms of Esophageal Cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, Esophageal Cancer is often discovered at advanced stages, but if discovered early, chances for recovery and survival are far better with current treatments; and

**WHEREAS**, Esophageal Cancer in the United States may be associated with persistent heartburn or gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), yet many individuals are not aware of the potential danger GERD can present when it occurs over several years; and

**WHEREAS**, Esophageal Cancer can develop from GERD when fluids from the stomach regurgitate up into the esophagus resulting in cellular changes that may cause a precancerous condition known as Barrett's Esophagus, which may increase a patient's risk of developing Esophageal Cancer by 30-fold; and

**WHEREAS**, Esophageal Cancer awareness along with improvements in prevention such as avoiding tobacco and alcohol use, early detection and treatment strategies will enhance the health and well-being of all Americans;

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

## *Esophageal 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 thirteenth day of February, 2019.

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

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Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sue Kyatt".

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Secretary of State

