



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, older Tennesseans are valued members of society, who deserve to live safely with dignity and as independently as possible with the supports they need; and

**WHEREAS**, elder abuse is any act that harms an older person or jeopardizes his or her health or welfare; and

**WHEREAS**, elder abuse is a tragedy inflicted on vulnerable older Tennesseans and is an ever-increasing problem in today's society that crosses all socio-economic and geographic boundaries; and

**WHEREAS**, the Adult Protective Services (APS) Program of the Tennessee Department of Human Services and the Tennessee Commission on Aging & Disability (TCAD) are responsible for awareness, prevention, investigating, and reporting of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation, and, do hereby declare elder abuse, neglect and exploitation a priority in Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, the statewide Tennessee Vulnerable Adult Coalition (TVAC) and the regional coalitions in Middle, South Central, East, Upper Cumberland, West and Northeast Tennessee are grassroots organizations working to educate older Tennesseans about prevention strategies, to identify suspicious activities, to raise awareness, and to encourage reporting of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Coordinated Community Response (CCR), comprised of approximately 20 state agencies and organizations, collaborates to improve the investigation, response and delivery of services to older and vulnerable adults through a focus on innovative and efficient intervention models to protect Tennesseans; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Department of Commerce & Insurance (TDCI) and its Insurance, Securities and Consumer Affairs divisions raise awareness about preventing financial scams, identity theft, and fraud across Tennessee by holding public outreach events and creating educational materials in order to assist the elderly and their caregivers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS), Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI), Tennessee Department of Health (TDOH), Tennessee Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD), Tennessee Department of Financial Institutions (TDFI), and other state organizations and leaders work in support of efforts to prevent elder abuse for the well-being of older Tennesseans; and

**WHEREAS**, nationally and in Tennessee elder abuse is greatly under-reported and there is a significant need to increase education and awareness of this devastating crime; and

**WHEREAS**, all Tennesseans serve as gatekeepers for the older population, educating ourselves on how to empower and assist them, serve as a resource, and be attentive to supports and services as we all grow older; and

**WHEREAS**, combating abuse and exploitation of Tennessee's older population will help improve the quality of life for all across the state and U.S.; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee's older population shall be treated with respect and dignity to enable them to continue to serve as leaders, mentors, volunteers, and active members of this community; and

**WHEREAS**, the well-being of older Tennesseans is in the interest of all and further builds the foundation of a thriving Tennessee;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim June 15, 2019 as

*Elder Abuse Awareness 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 fifth day of June, 2019.

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

Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to the Secretary of State.

Secretary of State

