



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, mental health is a vital part of one's overall health; and

WHEREAS, one in five adults will experience a mental illness in any given year and one in 17 adults lives with a serious mental illness such as major depression, bipolar disorder or schizophrenia; and

WHEREAS, approximately one-half of severe and persistent mental illnesses begins by the age of 14 and three-quarters by age 24; and

WHEREAS, long delays, sometimes spanning decades, often occur between the first onset of symptoms and when individuals seek help; and

WHEREAS, early identification and treatment can make a difference in successful management of mental illness and recovery; and

WHEREAS, it is important to maintain one's mental health and learn the symptoms of mental illness in order to get help when it is needed; and

WHEREAS, every citizen and community can become a catalyst for change by helping to erase the stigma surrounding mental illness that often discourages people from seeking help; and

WHEREAS, anyone can experience the challenges of mental illness regardless of their background;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of October 7-11, 2019 as

Mental Illness Awareness Week

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 July, 2019.

Bill Lee

Governor

Leigh R. Hargis

Secretary of State