



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, human trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act or labor services through the use of force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such acts has not attained 18 years of age; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a \$32 billion per year global criminal enterprise and is the second fastest growing criminal industry, just behind drug trafficking; and

WHEREAS, the United States is a major destination for international trafficking victims with 14,000 to 18,000 people trafficked annually in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, in Tennessee, the number of sex trafficking tips involving a minor has increased by almost 200 percent from 2016 to 2018 and since 2016, there have been more than 150 human sex trafficking investigations opened; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking victims may be of any age, gender, race or background and the most vulnerable are victims of child abuse, runaway youth, people without homes and victims of domestic violence, conflict or social discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the average age of entry into sex trafficking is 13 years old; and

WHEREAS, the Trafficking Protection Act of 2000 criminalized human trafficking at the federal level; and

WHEREAS, in January 2019 the Tennessee Department of Health recognized human trafficking as a public health concern as it directly relates to incidences of unplanned pregnancies, increased risk of sexually transmitted infections and involvement in unhealthy relationships, and partnered with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's "It Has to Stop campaign"; and

WHEREAS, dedicating a week to promote education, resources and community efforts will provide Tennesseans with the knowledge to identify and prevent human trafficking;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim July 28-August 3, 2019 as

Human Trafficking 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 twenty-fifth day of July, 2019.

Bill Lee

Governor

Le Pargett

Secretary of State

