



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Global Peer Supporter Celebration Day (GPSCD) occurs annually on the third Thursday in October, and provides an opportunity for peer workers (also known as peer providers) from across the globe to reflect on and celebrate the important role they play in helping those with mental health, addiction, and/or trauma challenges move along the continuum of recovery and inclusion into communities of their choosing; and

**WHEREAS**, Peer Supporters are trained providers who use lived experience to encourage, engage, and support others with mental health, addiction, and/or trauma challenges, using the recovery model and the principles and values of peer support to provide hope, support, and be a role model of recovery; and

**WHEREAS**, the belief that recovery is possible for all who experience mental health, addiction, and/or trauma challenges is fundamental to the practice of peer support; and

**WHEREAS**, Peer Supporters use the working definition of recovery, the Guiding Principles of Recovery, and Core Values to empower and assist their peers to live a life of their choosing, improving the likelihood of long-term recovery; and

**WHEREAS**, Peer support is an emerging best-practice, has proven to be a cost-effective treatment for mental health, addiction, and trauma challenges, reduces inpatient hospital days, reduces recidivism rates, and increases a person's ability to access less expensive and less restrictive community-based services; and

**WHEREAS**, the goal of Global Peer Supporter Celebration Day is to increase public awareness of peer supporters, the services they provide, how they are impacting the lives of countless adults, children, adolescents, and families within the health and human services industry, and how they are providing a positive example of recovery in the places where these services are delivered;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim October 17, 2019 as

## *Peer Support Celebration 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 fourteenth day of August, 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

