



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, suicide is one of the most disruptive and tragic events a family and a community can experience, with more than 1000 lives lost in Tennessee each year and an estimated 8-25 attempted suicides for each suicide death; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide is the ninth-leading cause of all deaths in Tennessee, the second-leading cause of death among youth ages of 10 to 24, and the first leading cause for children ages 10-17; and

**WHEREAS**, three lives a day are lost to suicide in Tennessee, which means we lose 22 Tennesseans each week and 97 people per month; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee veterans, active-duty military, and National Guardsmen face a disproportionate risk as compared to the general population, with more dying from suicide than combat; and

**WHEREAS**, public awareness of this tragic problem is the key to preventing further suffering and loss of life; and the risk for human self-destruction can be reduced through awareness, education and treatment as the highest risk for suicide is among the survivors of those who died by suicide or those who have attempted suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide prevention, including teen suicide prevention, is a major priority for our state; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee is a national leader in the effort to prevent suicide, being one of the first states to develop a suicide prevention and evaluation plan covering the lifespan; and

**WHEREAS**, as Governor of Tennessee, I have appointed a Suicide Prevention Network Advisory Council to coordinate the implementation of the Tennessee Strategy for Suicide Prevention; and

**WHEREAS**, TSPN is a grassroots collaboration of Tennesseans and organizations working to eliminate the stigma of suicide, educate the community about the warning signs of suicide, and ultimately reduce the rate of suicide in our state;

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

*Suicide Prevention 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 twenty-sixth day of August, 2019.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Joe Hargett*

Secretary of State

