



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Dwarfism is a type of skeletal dysplasia that causes short stature; and

WHEREAS, achondroplasia, the most common type of dwarfism, affects about 1 in 20,000 infants; and

WHEREAS, more than 80 percent of children with achondroplasia have average-height parents; and

WHEREAS, while many people affected by dwarfism don't feel that they have a disability, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) does protect the rights of persons affected by dwarfism; and

WHEREAS, more than 300 different conditions can cause dwarfism; and

WHEREAS, the national nonprofit Little People of America works to increase awareness and support of those affected by dwarfism; and

WHEREAS, complications of dwarfism can include orthopedic problems, compression of the brain stem, hydrocephalus (excess fluid on the brain), and obstructive sleep apnea; and

WHEREAS, some patients may require surgeries or other medical interventions to address these complications or maximize mobility; and

WHEREAS, Dwarfism typically only affects physical development and has no bearing on intelligence, talents or abilities; and many who are diagnosed with dwarfism lead long, fulfilling lives and achieve life-long milestones;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim October 25, 2019 as

Dwarfism 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 ninth day of September, 2019.

Bill Lee

Governor

Julie Hargett

Secretary of State