



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Healthcare Decisions Day is designed to raise public awareness of the need to plan ahead for health care decisions, end-of-life care or life-threatening emergencies and to encourage the use of advance directives to communicate these important health care decisions when patients are unable to speak for themselves; and

WHEREAS, more than half of working-age adult Tennesseans don't have a living will, health care proxy or advance directive for health care; and

WHEREAS, research has demonstrated that people who participate in advance care planning reap many benefits: They are more likely to have their end-of-life wishes known and respected, and patients and their families are more satisfied with the care received after they have these conversations with doctors; and

WHEREAS, individuals with advance directives are less likely to receive unwanted aggressive medical treatments in their last weeks of life, less likely to die in the hospital or intensive care unit and more likely to enroll in palliative care that supports patients and their families in the final phase of terminal illness with a focus on comfort and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, many employers across Tennessee are demonstrating their commitment to develop programs that help employees and their loved ones cope with the realities of end-of-life; and

WHEREAS, Honoring Choices® Tennessee, a statewide coalition of state agencies, private industry, health care associations and other organizations has endorsed this event and are committed to educating the workforce and general public about the importance of discussing health care choices and executing advance directives; and

WHEREAS, Healthcare Decisions Day in Tennessee will encourage more Tennesseans to have conversations about their health care choices and completing advance directives;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim April 16, 2020 as

Healthcare Decisions 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 twenty-first day of January, 2020.

Bill Lee

Governor

Joe Hargett

Secretary of State