



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, there are more than 8,000 children in Tennessee living apart from their families in foster care; and

WHEREAS, from January 2019 through January 2020, 1,288 Tennessee children, age newborn to 18-years, exited foster care and were adopted into forever families; and

WHEREAS, from January 2019 through January 2020, 444 Tennessee children joined forever families through subsidized permanent guardianship; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Department of Children's Services projects 109 adoptions or subsidized permanent guardianship finalizations in February 2020; and

WHEREAS, all children and youth deserve to grow, develop, and have their needs met by being placed with families who can offer a permanent home; and

WHEREAS, in a permanent home, children and youth can receive love, protection, stability, and a sense of acceptance; and

WHEREAS, children and youth waiting for adoptive parents and the families who have adopted deserve support from their communities and from public and private agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Department of Children's Services commends the love, commitment, and care of foster families and their contributions to the safety and well-being of children and youth in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Department of Children's Services is grateful for families who create paths to permanency through adoption and cases of subsidized permanent guardianship;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of February 9-14, 2020 as

Adoption is Love 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 seventh day of February, 2020.

Bill Lee

Governor

Jie Hargrett

Secretary of State