



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Tennesseans are the victims of thousands of crimes each year, affecting individuals, families and our communities;

WHEREAS, years of Tennessee's investment in crime victims' rights and services have developed a system of response that can help victims recover from crime;

WHEREAS, reaching and serving all victims of crime is essential to thriving communities, because those who receive holistic services and support are more likely to remain invested in their communities;

WHEREAS, dedicated victim service providers are working every day to meet the needs of victims, yet there are still too many survivors without meaningful access to rights and services;

WHEREAS, many survivors face barriers - such as isolation, language limitations, distrust of the system, lack of transportation, or cultural barriers - that keep them from accessing the services and systems that can help them recover;

WHEREAS, we, as Tennesseans, must make a dedicated effort to expand the circle of those prepared to respond to victims and link them to resources;

WHEREAS, engaging a broader array of healthcare providers, community leaders, faith organizations, educators, and businesses can provide new links between victims and services that improve their safety, healing and access to justice;

WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides us an opportunity to recommit to ensuring that all victims of crime - especially those who are challenging to reach or serve - are afforded their rights and receive trauma-informed response;

WHEREAS, The Tennessee Board of Parole, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, and the Tennessee Department of Corrections Victim Service professionals are dedicated to strengthening victims and survivors in the aftermath of crime, building resilience in our communities and our victim responders, and working for justice for all victims and survivors;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of April 19-25, 2020 as

Crime Victims' Rights 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 April, 2020.

Bill Lee

Governor

Lee Dargatz

Secretary of State