



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the role of the ombuds originated over 200 years ago in Sweden, designated as a government official charged with advocating on behalf of citizens with complaints or problems with the government; and

WHEREAS, today's ombuds are confidential, independent, and impartial conflict management professionals who work to address individual and systemic issues outside of and complementary to formal channels such as human resources, grievances, complaints, and legal action; and

WHEREAS, ombuds work in a wide variety of organizations within the State of Tennessee and worldwide, including universities and colleges, governments at all levels, healthcare institutions, corporations, financial institutions, for-profit and not-for-profit organizations, the media, and international organizations; and

WHEREAS, ombuds programs provide a valuable form of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and significant value to the constituents and institutions they serve, and are a vital supplement to formal conflict management processes that address allegedly inappropriate or wrongful conduct; and

WHEREAS, ombuds provide powerful risk management resources for the organizations they serve; and

WHEREAS, recognition of this day is an opportunity to increase awareness and understanding of the profession, highlight the value ombuds bring to the organizations and constituents they serve, and encourage the greater use of ombuds programs; and

WHEREAS, citizens of Tennessee are encouraged to become familiar with the ombuds profession and the professional in this role across sectors, and to make use of these services as needed;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim October 8, 2020 as

Ombuds 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 fourth day of August, 2020.

Bill Lee

Governor

Joe Wright

Secretary of State