



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, National Domestic Violence Awareness Month is recognized each October through educational events, community gatherings, and support groups across the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, 1 in 15 children are exposed to intimate partner violence each year in the United States., and 90% of these children are eyewitnesses to this violence; and

**WHEREAS**, 72% of all murder-suicides involve an intimate partner in the U.S.; 94% of the victims of these murder suicides are female; and

**WHEREAS**, there were over 71,000 domestic violence incidents reported in 2019 in Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, on a typical day, there are more than 20,000 phone calls placed to domestic violence hotlines nationwide; and

**WHEREAS**, 85 people were murdered in Tennessee in 2019 in a domestic violence incident; and

**WHEREAS**, victims of violence should have access to medical and legal services, counseling, transitional housing, and other supportive services so that they can escape the cycle of abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to recognize the compassion and dedication of the individuals who provide services to victims of domestic violence and work to increase public understanding of this significant problem; and

**WHEREAS**, local programs, state coalitions, national organizations, and other agencies nationwide are committed to increasing public awareness of domestic violence and its prevalence, and to eliminating it through prevention and education; and

**WHEREAS**, we have a moral obligation to work to prevent domestic violence and to address its brutal and destructive effects;

**WHEREAS**, citizens are urged to actively participate in the scheduled activities and programs sponsored by local domestic violence and child advocacy centers across Tennessee to work towards the elimination of personal and institutional violence for all Tennessee citizens;

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

*Domestic Violence Awareness Month*

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 sixteenth day of September, 2020.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*[Signature]*

Secretary of State