



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Neuromyelitis Optica (NMO) is a rare autoimmune disorder in which the immune system cells and antibodies primarily attack the optic nerves and spinal cord; and

WHEREAS, NMO causes damage to the optic nerves and spinal cord which can lead to inflammation, pain, loss of vision, weakness, paralysis in the legs and arms, loss of sensation, and problems with bladder and bowel function; and

WHEREAS, NMO is more common in women than men by 80 percent, and occurs in all parts of the world; and

WHEREAS, NMO can occur at any age, but the most common age of onset is between 32 and 41; and

WHEREAS, early diagnosis of NMO is critical, and if untreated can lead to devastating and irreversible effects, and while there is no cure for NMO, with early detection, individuals diagnosed can receive medical attention; and

WHEREAS, it is important to improve public awareness of NMO so it can be diagnosed at the earliest stage possible and proper treatment can begin; and

WHEREAS, the Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder community is dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding about this disease in order to promote research, improved patient care and outcomes, and to ultimately find a cure;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim March 2021 as

Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder 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 fourteenth day of January, 2021.

Handwritten signature of Bill Lee in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of the Secretary of State in blue ink.

Secretary of State

