



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, colorectal cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States among men and women combined, but there is currently no cure; and

**WHEREAS**, colorectal cancer is one of the few cancers that can be prevented with timely screening, and due to COVID-19, the total number of colonoscopies and biopsies performed has declined; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals born in the 1990's have double the risk of colon cancer and quadruple the risk of rectal cancer as those born in the 1950's; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that over 145,000 people were diagnosed with colorectal cancer and over 53,000 people died of colorectal cancer in 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, colorectal cancer incidence and mortality rates are disproportionately higher among racial and ethnic minorities; and

**WHEREAS**, the national goal established by the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable is to strive to increase timely colorectal cancer screening rates to at least 80 percent in every community for all Americans eligible for screening; and

**WHEREAS**, it is critical that all people, of all ages, know the signs and symptoms of the disease; and

**WHEREAS**, observing a Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month during the month of March provides a special opportunity to offer education on the importance of early detection and screening;

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

*Colorectal Cancer 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 twenty-eighth day of January, 2021.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Joe Dargatzis*

Secretary of State

