



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, in 2020, 1,169 Tennessee children, age newborn to 18-years, exited foster care and were adopted into forever families; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2020, 403 Tennessee children also joined forever families through subsidized permanent guardianship; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Department of Children's Services remained dedicated to finding permanency for youth amid the pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, all children and youth deserve to grow, develop, and have their needs met by being placed with families who can offer a permanent home; and

**WHEREAS**, in a permanent home, children and youth can receive love, protection, stability, and a sense of acceptance; and

**WHEREAS**, the families who have adopted and the children waiting for adoptive families deserve love and support from their communities and from public and private agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Department of Children's Services commends the love, commitment, and care of foster families and their contributions to the safety and well-being of children and youth in Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Department of Children's Services is grateful for families who created paths to permanency through adoption and cases of subsidized permanent guardianship during these challenging times;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim February 14 -- February 20, 2021 as

*"Adoption is Love" 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 fourth day of February, 2021.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Lee Hargrett*

Secretary of State