



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, multiple myeloma (or myeloma) is a cancer of plasma cells in the bone marrow and is called “multiple” because it can occur at various sites in the body; and

**WHEREAS**, multiple myeloma causes a variety of adverse health effects, including a weakened immune system, anemia, kidney damage, and bone deterioration; and

**WHEREAS**, multiple myeloma is the second most common blood cancer worldwide; and

**WHEREAS**, Multiple Myeloma currently affects more than 77,000 people in the United States, with an estimated 22,000 new cases diagnosed each year and 11,000 losing their battle each year; and

**WHEREAS**, once predominantly found among those 65 and over, where it continues to be most frequently diagnosed, multiple myeloma is increasingly being identified in younger individuals including those in their 30’s, 40’s and 50’s; and

**WHEREAS**, multiple myeloma is almost twice as likely to occur among African-Americans and is one of the leading causes of cancer deaths among African-Americans, with scientific understanding of the disparity remaining unknown; and

**WHEREAS**, the cause of multiple myeloma is not known, with robust research being performed in the United States and internationally into potential genetic, environmental, and other risk factors; and

**WHEREAS**, additional new drugs and therapies are in the research phase, with patient enrollment in clinical trials playing an important role in determining safe and effective treatments; and

**WHEREAS**, greater awareness of multiple myeloma on the part of clinicians and the general public can lead to earlier detection and treatment, improving health outcomes and bringing comfort to patients and their families;

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

*Multiple Myeloma Action 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 seventh day of February, 2021.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Lu Dargatz*

Secretary of State