



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, the Ehlers-Danlos syndromes are a group of connective tissue disorders that can be inherited and are varied both in how they affect the body and in their genetic causes, and are characterized by joint hypermobility (joints that stretch further than normal), skin hyperextensibility (skin that can be stretched further than normal), and tissue fragility; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ehlers-Danlos syndromes are considered rare diseases, and impact people of any age, gender, race or background, including many individuals living in Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ehlers-Danlos syndromes can be very painful and disabling, and this disability can result in social isolation, stress on the families of those affected, and financial hardship; and

**WHEREAS**, some forms of the Ehlers-Danlos syndromes can result in death, causing tremendous pain and suffering for those impacted and their loved ones; and

**WHEREAS**, increased awareness about the Ehlers-Danlos syndromes will help patients get diagnosed and treated earlier, save lives, and foster support for individuals and families coping with the Ehlers-Danlos syndromes in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, The Ehlers-Danlos Society, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that advocates on behalf of patients living with the Ehlers-Danlos syndromes and related disorders, works to encourage Ehlers-Danlos syndromes awareness; and

**WHEREAS**, we seek to recognize the contributions of The Ehlers-Danlos Society, and the patients and family members who are working to educate our citizenry about the Ehlers-Danlos syndromes in Tennessee;

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

*Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome  
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 second day of April, 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Lee".

Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to the Secretary of State.

Secretary of State

