



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, it is important to promote awareness and understanding of a genetic disorder known as Neurofibromatosis (NF), formerly known as Von Recklinghausen disease; and

**WHEREAS**, children with NF are usually born with six or more brown oval or circular spots in the skin called cafe-au-lait spots, and develop other characteristic features, including benign skin tumors called neurofibromas, freckles under the arms or in the groin region, a benign tumor along the optic nerve, two or more iris hamartomas, a characteristic bony lesion, or a first degree relative with NF; and

**WHEREAS**, the disorder can also lead to the loss of sight or hearing; skeletal defects, such as abnormal curvature of the spine or bowing of the leg; learning disabilities; disfigurement; chronic pain; cardiovascular problems, including high blood pressure; cancer; and a wide variety of other complications; and

**WHEREAS**, NF causes tumors to grow on nerves throughout the body and also can affect development of the brain, cardiovascular system, bones and skin; and

**WHEREAS**, the majority of people with NF have mild forms of the disorder, while some have serious and persistent health problems related to the disorder; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to support the development of improved therapies for early intervention and other necessary and critical treatments, and encourage further research into this disorder; and

**WHEREAS**, by raising awareness of this disorder, we hope to have a positive and productive impact on the lives of all people with NF and their caregivers and families; and

**WHEREAS**, the Neurofibromatosis Network has worked for over 30 years on their mission to find better treatments and a cure for NF;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim May 17, 2021 as

*Neurofibromatosis Awareness Day*

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 fifteenth day of April, 2021.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Joe Wargitt*

Secretary of State