



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Usher Syndrome is a relatively rare genetic disorder caused by a mutation in any one of several genes resulting in a combination of hearing loss and visual impairment, and is a leading cause of combined deafness and blindness; and

WHEREAS, it's estimated that more than 400,000 people are affected by this genetic disorder worldwide, with as many as 25,000 of those in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Usher Syndrome, which is incurable presently, impacts three major senses in the body - vision, hearing, and balance; and

WHEREAS, vision loss occurs through a progressive vision disorder known as retinitis pigmentosa (RP) where light-sensing cells in the retina gradually deteriorate, resulting in a narrowing of the visual field; and

WHEREAS, children with Usher Syndrome are born with or develop hearing loss and it is estimated that as many as 6% of all children who are deaf and 6% of children who are hard-of-hearing have Usher Syndrome; and

WHEREAS, because of limited public awareness, those affected with Usher syndrome may suffer from depression, anxiety, isolation, loss of independence; and

WHEREAS, the Usher Syndrome community is uniting around the world to spread public awareness but especially to be recognized annually the 3rd Saturday of September;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 18, 2021, as

Usher Syndrome 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 twenty-fifth day of August, 2021.

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

Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Hargatt".

Secretary of State

