



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, March is recognized as National Kidney Month and is an important opportunity to raise public awareness and understanding of rare kidney diseases, such as APOL1 mediated kidney disease; and

WHEREAS, APOL1 genetic variants account for much of the excess risk of chronic and end-stage kidney disease for persons of African ancestry, including people of African American, Afro-Caribbean, and Latin descent; and

WHEREAS, APOL1 mutations contribute to the disproportionate rate of kidney disease in people of African ancestry; African Americans make up 13% of the United States population, but account for 35% of all kidney failure or end-stage kidney disease; in addition, African Americans are four times more likely to develop kidney failure than White Americans; and

WHEREAS, APOL1 mediated kidney disease is driven by genetic factors and is underdiagnosed; and

WHEREAS, symptoms do not present until kidney damage is advanced; symptoms include fatigue, swelling in the legs and feet and weight gain, among others; and

WHEREAS, increasing public awareness and understanding of the genetic causes of rare kidney disease could lead to early diagnosis and care for some of the most vulnerable populations and empower and educate those at risk on how they can manage it;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim March 2022 as

Rare Kidney Disease 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 twenty-ninth day of March, 2022.

Bill Lee

Governor

Lee Hargett

Secretary of State