



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, Neurofibromatosis affects over 128,000 Americans and 2,700 Tennesseans; 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 have 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, 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 "lead NF advocacy and build NF community" while they fight for better treatments and a cure for NF;

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

Neurofibromatosis 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 twenty-first day of April, 2022.

Handwritten signature of Bill Lee in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of the Secretary of State in blue ink.

Secretary of State

