



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Ehlers-Danlos Syndromes (EDS) are a group of disorders that affect the body's connective tissues including the skin, joints, blood vessels, gut, and many other organs and tissues; and

WHEREAS, EDS affects more than one in 5,000 people, and people of all ages, races, and genders. It is a chronic, life-long condition; and

WHEREAS, Hypermobility Spectrum Disorder (HSD) is diagnosed when the musculoskeletal complications of joint hypermobility and joint instability (ease of injury, joint pain, and dislocations for example) arise in a person who does not have the defining features of an underlying syndrome such as EDS or other heritable disorders of connective tissue; and

WHEREAS, in addition, people with EDS and HSD may share clinical features, which adds complexity to the diagnosis and management of their conditions; and

WHEREAS, early and accurate diagnosis can provide the opportunity to create life-saving medical plans and improve quality of life; and

WHEREAS, treatment for the Ehlers-Danlos Syndromes and Hypermobility Spectrum Disorders can help manage symptoms and prevent further complications, but there is no known cure; and

WHEREAS, further medical research and awareness can bring hope for treatment and a cure;

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

*Ehlers-Danlos Syndromes and Hypermobility
Spectrum Disorders 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-seventh day of May, 2022.

Bill Lee

Governor

Scott Austin

Secretary of State