



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, "sickle cell anemia" and "sickle cell disease," used interchangeably, refer to a group of inherited disorders caused by the presence of two sickle cell genes; and

WHEREAS, sickle cell disease is a disease in which a person's body produces abnormally shaped red blood cells that resemble a crescent or sickle and that do not last as long as normal, round red blood cells, leading to anemia; and

WHEREAS, the sickle cells also get stuck in blood vessels and block blood flow, resulting in vaso-occlusive crises which can occur several times a year, last several days, and cause pain and organ damage; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that sickle cell disease affects approximately 100,000 Americans, occurring among about every 1 in 365 African-American births and 1 in 16,300 Hispanic-American births; and that 4,000 Tennesseans have sickle cell disease; and

WHEREAS, sickle cell disease can be a life-threatening condition leading to a 25 to 30-year reduction in life expectancy; and access to comprehensive care can be limited by social, economic, cultural, and geographic barriers; and

WHEREAS, while there is no widely available cure for sickle cell disease, one-time gene therapies, including gene editing therapeutic approaches, are being developed and may offer potential cures for some patients; and

WHEREAS, the Food and Drug Administration has granted orphan drug designation to sickle cell therapies to provide incentives and encourage the development of therapies for rare diseases; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby recognize September 2022 as

Sickle Cell 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 thirtieth day of August, 2022.

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

Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to the Secretary of State.

Secretary of State

