



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, the health and well-being of congenital heart patients is of paramount importance; and

**WHEREAS**, each year in the United States, more than 40,000 babies are born with a congenital heart defect; and

**WHEREAS**, the medical community has identified congenital heart defects as the leading cause of birth defect-related deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, medical research can provide more identifiable means of the origins and symptoms of congenital heart defects; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no cure for congenital heart defects, and it is a lifelong disease requiring ongoing specialized care; and

**WHEREAS**, fewer than 10% of adults with congenital heart disease are receiving recommended care; and

**WHEREAS**, it is crucial that individuals planning a family, fetal clinicians, obstetric physicians, pediatricians, and all those in the medical field have a greater understanding of the potential for congenital heart defects; and

**WHEREAS**, Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week provides the opportunity for patients and families affected by this condition to share their experiences and knowledge, so that the general public may be aware of how this defect affects our lives.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of February 7-14, 2023, as

*Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week*

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 seventh day of February, 2023.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Heather Hargett*

Secretary of State