



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, every Tennessean has the right to live free from harm and the fear of sexual assault or abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, no man, woman, or child has the right to force, coerce, threaten, or manipulate anyone into sexual activity; and

**WHEREAS**, sexual assault is a devastating crime that affects children, women, and men of all racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds in every community throughout Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, the rate of sexual violence against women is unacceptable, with one in six female Tennesseans having experienced sexual violence during their lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, the crime of sexual assault violates an individual's humanity, dignity, security, and privacy, which often leaves victims to suffer in silence for fear of further injury; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to the initial trauma, both victims and survivors often experience long-lasting impacts such as feelings of shame or difficulty in personal relationships; and

**WHEREAS**, we should honor victims around us and celebrate the resiliency and success of survivors who, despite great obstacles, are thriving in communities across Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Tennessee is committed to prevention; and providing law enforcement and support for victims and survivors;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as

## *Sexual Assault 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 seventh day of February.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Ju Wengot*

Secretary of State