



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, there are nearly 7,000 diseases and conditions considered rare (each affecting fewer than 200,000 individuals) in the United States, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH); and

WHEREAS, while each of these diseases may affect small numbers of people, rare diseases as a group affect approximately 25 million Americans; many of whom are Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, many rare diseases are serious and debilitating conditions that have a significant impact on the lives of those affected; and

WHEREAS, while more than 800 drugs and biologics have been approved for the treatment of rare diseases according to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), millions of Americans still have rare diseases for which there is no approved treatment; and

WHEREAS, individuals and families affected by rare diseases often experience problems such as diagnosis delay, difficulty finding a medical expert, and lack of access to treatments or ancillary services;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim February 28, 2023 as

Rare Disease Awareness Day

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-eighth day of February 2023.

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

Governor

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

Secretary of State

