



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, APOL1- mediated kidney disease (AMKD) is a rare and serious disease caused by mutations in the APOL1 gene that lead to damage in certain kidney cells. It is driven by genetic factors and is underdiagnosed; and

**WHEREAS**, APOL1 genetic variants account for much of the excess risk of chronic and end stage kidney disease for persons of African ancestry, including people of African American, Afro-Caribbean, and Latin descent; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans make up 13% of the United States population, but account for 32% of all kidney failure and 35% of all end stage kidney disease; in addition, African Americans are four times more likely to develop kidney failure than White Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, symptoms do not present until kidney damage is advanced; symptoms include fatigue, swelling in the legs and feet and weight gain, among others; and

**WHEREAS**, increasing public awareness and understanding of the genetic causes of rare kidney disease could lead to early diagnosis and care for some of the most vulnerable populations and educate those at risk on how it is best managed;

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

## *Rare Kidney Disease 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 second day of February 2023.

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