



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (EDS) is a group of disorders that affect the body's connective tissues, including the skin, joints, blood vessels, gut, and many other organs and tissues; and

**WHEREAS**, EDS affects more than one in 5,000 people, and people of all ages, races, and genders. It is a chronic, life-long condition; and

**WHEREAS**, Hypermobility Spectrum Disorder (HSD) is diagnosed when the musculoskeletal complications of joint hypermobility and joint instability (ease of injury, joint pain, and dislocations for example) arise in a person who does not have the defining features of an underlying syndrome such as EDS or other heritable disorders of connective tissue; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition, several related disorders are observed in a number of people with EDS and with HSD. These add complexity to the presentation of their condition and its management; and

**WHEREAS**, early and accurate diagnosis can provide the opportunity to create life-saving medical plans and improve quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, there is currently no treatment for the Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome and Hypermobility Spectrum Disorder, and no known cure; and

**WHEREAS**, further medical research and awareness can bring hope for treatment and a cure;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim May 2023 as

*Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome 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 twenty second day of February 2023.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*John R. Cooper*

Secretary of State