



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, quality afterschool programs and opportunities provide safe and engaging learning experiences that help children realize their full potential; and

**WHEREAS**, afterschool programs support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive when they are out of their classrooms; and

**WHEREAS**, stronger communities are built by involving students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of young people; and

**WHEREAS**, afterschool programs provide innovative, hands-on opportunities for youth to engage in learning and connect with caring adults and peers in a safe and supportive environment; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 25 million families report that they would enroll their child in an afterschool program if one were available; for every child in a program, four are waiting; and

**WHEREAS**, many afterschool programs across the country are facing operating challenges so severe that they are forced to consider closing their doors and turning off their lights; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee is committed to investing in the health and safety of all young people by providing expanded learning opportunities that help our children learn and grow, while helping them develop the skills essential for success in life and work; and

**WHEREAS**, our State supports engaging in innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee do hereby proclaim October 26, 2023, as

*Lights on Afterschool 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 tenth day of August 2023.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Lee Hargett*

Secretary of State