



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, among the debilitating eye diseases that affect Tennesseans and others throughout the country and around the world, Coats' Disease is a rare retinal disorder that primarily afflicts infants, young children, and teenagers, most of them boys, but can affect adults as well; and

**WHEREAS**, Coats' Disease can cause blood vessels in one or both eyes to develop abnormally, causing leakage of blood into the eye resulting in trauma, damage, partial or total blindness, or even removal of the eye without early detection, treatment, or surgery; and

**WHEREAS**, Coats' Disease is still not widely known and can be misdiagnosed by some in the medical community, even among retinal specialists; and

**WHEREAS**, Coats' Disease is classified as an orphan disease yet impacts hundreds in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee is committed to finding cures and treatments for many rare diseases or afflictions through scientific, academic, and commercial endeavors, and Tennessee can be a leader in promoting awareness, research, study, and cures for Coats' Disease; and

**WHEREAS**, Coats' Disease Awareness Day is an important tool for raising awareness among government officials, medical professionals, academic institutions, commercial ventures, and the public about this rare disease to enable early detection, advance scientific research and treatment capabilities, and eventually find a cure;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim August 17, 2023, as

*Coats' 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 sixteenth day of August, 2023.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*John R. Berg*

Secretary of State