



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence is a pressing issue that affects individuals and families Tennessee, transcending geographical, cultural, and socio-economic boundaries and causing physical, emotional, and psychological harm to survivors, their families, and the community at large; and

**WHEREAS**, alarming statistics reveal that 1 in 5 women and 1 in 7 men in the United States become victims of severe physical violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2022, there were over 61,783 reported domestic violence incidents and 96 people were murdered in a domestic violence incident in Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, over 18,000 people sought shelter from domestic violence in Tennessee in 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, it is our shared responsibility as Tennesseans to actively address and combat domestic violence, promote healthy relationships, and provide support and resources to those affected; and

**WHEREAS**, survivors of domestic violence demonstrate immense courage and resilience in seeking safety and rebuilding their lives, deserve our unwavering support and respect, and should have access to medical and legal services, counseling, transitional housing, and other supportive services so that they can escape the cycle of abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Tennessee demonstrates its commitment by allocating nearly \$17,000,000.00 to domestic violence service providers through 83 grants in 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee's dedicated organizations, advocates, law enforcement agencies, and service providers tirelessly work to support survivors, hold perpetrators accountable, increase public understanding, and create safer environments for all;

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

*Domestic Violence 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-eighth day of September, 2023.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Jeannette*

Secretary of State