



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, pregnancy and infant loss is a common occurrence, but often goes unrecognized; and

WHEREAS, many parents and families have suffered a miscarriage, a stillbirth, or the death of an infant during delivery or shortly after birth; and

WHEREAS, this devastating tragedy often occurs suddenly as a result of miscarriage, stillbirth, preterm birth, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), accident, or other complications; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, infant mortality was the largest single contributor to child fatality in Tennessee, and prematurity and low birthweight are the leading risk factors for infant deaths; and

WHEREAS, over 1 in 5 infant deaths in Tennessee over the past five years were caused by unsafe sleep environments; and

WHEREAS, even the shortest lives are still valuable, and the grief of those who mourn the loss of these lives should not be trivialized; and

WHEREAS, this month honors the lives of children taken far too soon and supports grieving parents and family members whose lives are forever altered by the heartbreak of losing a child; and

WHEREAS, the tragedy of pregnancy and infant loss may be preventable in some instances; and

WHEREAS, increased awareness of the causes and impacts surrounding pregnancy and infant loss may lead to greater understanding, support, and resources in communities across Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, promoting awareness of the challenges faced by those parents and families is a positive means of establishing support and understanding;

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

Pregnancy and Infant Loss 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 fourth day of October, 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