



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, to help create a bright future for our Tennessee families, we must work to ensure that all children are given the best start possible by supporting early relational health; and

**WHEREAS**, scientific research points to the earliest years of life as the most critical for social and emotional development, forming the brain connections that build the architecture for future growth; and

**WHEREAS**, over the past 8 years, the State of Tennessee has invested extensively in spreading awareness of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) through the Building Strong Brains initiative; and

**WHEREAS**, the knowledge of ACEs has been used by state agencies, local governments, school districts, and others to develop policies that encourage care and support for the very youngest Tennesseans; and

**WHEREAS**, the Association of Infant Mental Health in Tennessee has credentialed more than 1,200 professionals across the state through the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Endorsement; and

**WHEREAS**, these credentialed women and men work closely with babies and families in collaboration with child care centers, family courts, mental and medical health providers as part of Tennessee's commitment to creating better foundations and brighter futures for children; and

**WHEREAS**, through intentional community outreach, networking, education, intervention, and policy awareness; babies, their families, and those that support them throughout Tennessee are celebrated;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim October 16-20, 2023 as

*Celebrate Babies Week*

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 October 2023.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Scott West*

Secretary of State