



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, a rare disease in the United States is a disease or condition that affects fewer than 200,000 Americans, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH); and

**WHEREAS**, while each of these diseases may affect small numbers of people, rare diseases as a group affect almost 30 million Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, 1 in 10 people have a rare disease, which means over 712,000 in Tennessee may be living with a rare disease; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals and families affected by rare diseases often experience problems such as diagnosis delay, difficulty finding a medical expert, and lack of access to treatments or ancillary services; and

**WHEREAS**, many rare diseases are serious and debilitating conditions that have a significant impact on the lives of those affected; and

**WHEREAS**, while the public is familiar with some rare diseases and sympathetic to those affected, many patients and families affected by less widely known rare diseases bear a large share of the burden of funding research and raising public awareness to support the search for treatments; and

**WHEREAS**, many of the world-leading academic institutions, academic medical centers, biotech companies and pharmaceutical companies conducting research and seeking cures for rare diseases are doing so in Tennessee; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim February 29, 2024, as

## *Rare Disease 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 fifteenth day of February, 2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Bill Lee", is written over a horizontal line.

Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "S. Hargett", is written over a horizontal line.

Secretary of State