



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, APOL1-mediated kidney disease (AMKD) is a rare and serious disease caused by mutations in the APOL1 gene that lead to damage in certain kidney cells. It is driven by genetic factors and is underdiagnosed; and

WHEREAS, APOL1 genetic variants account for much of the excess risk of chronic and end stage kidney disease for persons of African ancestry, including people of African American, Afro-Caribbean, and Latina/Latino descent; and

WHEREAS, Black Americans make up 13% of the United States population, but account for 32% of all kidney failure and 35% of all end stage kidney disease; in addition, Black Americans are four times more likely to develop kidney failure than White Americans; and

WHEREAS, symptoms do not present until kidney damage is advanced; symptoms include fatigue, swelling in the legs and feet and weight gain, among others; and

WHEREAS, increasing public awareness and understanding of the genetic causes of rare kidney disease could lead to early diagnosis and care for some of the most vulnerable populations and educate those at risk on how it is best managed;

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

Rare Kidney Disease 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 twentieth day of February 2024.

Bill Lee

Governor

Lee Hargett

Secretary of State