



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, an ostomy is a type of surgery that creates an opening (stoma) in the abdomen for use after the loss of digestive or urinary systems due to birth defects, colorectal cancer, bladder cancer, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, and other medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, an ostomy can also be necessary in cases of severe abdominal or pelvic trauma resulting from accidents or from injuries sustained during military service; and

WHEREAS, ostomy or continent diversion surgery can occur at any age and affects people from all ethnic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS; through education and awareness we can erase the myths, stigma and embarrassment that are sometimes associated with having an ostomy; and

WHEREAS, Tennesseans and many others worldwide are deeply committed to the proper care and advancement of knowledge about bowel and urinary diversion surgery;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim October 5, 2024 as

Ostomy Awareness 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 sixth day of August 2024.

Bill Lee

Governor

Joe Berg

Secretary of State