



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 285 children in the United States will be diagnosed by their 20th birthday; and

WHEREAS, 46 children per day or 16,790 children per year are diagnosed with cancer in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the average age of diagnosis is 6 years old; and

WHEREAS, 80% of childhood cancer patients are diagnosed late and with metastatic disease; and

WHEREAS, on average there has been a 0.6 percent increase in incidence per year since the mid 1970's resulting in an overall increase of 24 percent over the last 40 years; and

WHEREAS, two-thirds of childhood cancer patients will have chronic health conditions as a result of their treatment toxicity, with one quarter being classified as severe to life-threatening; and

WHEREAS, approximately one-half of childhood cancer families rate the associated financial hardship caused by their out-of-pocket expenses as considerable to severe; and

WHEREAS, in the last 30 years only six new drugs have been approved by the FDA to specifically treat childhood cancer; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of non-profit organizations at the local and national level are helping children with cancer and their families cope by providing educational, emotional, and financial support; and

WHEREAS, researchers and healthcare professionals work diligently dedicating their expertise to treat and cure children with cancer; and

WHEREAS, too many children are affected by this deadly disease and more must be done to raise awareness and find a cure;

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

Childhood Cancer 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 thirty-first day of August 2024.

Bill Lee

Governor

Juana Rodriguez

Secretary of State