



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, substance use disorder is a chronic condition affecting an estimated one in five Tennesseans; and

**WHEREAS**, evidence-based treatment options for substance use disorder are effective at helping people make positive changes, achieve recovery, and live the lives they want; and

**WHEREAS**, treatment for substance use disorder takes on many modalities encompassing the multitude of dimensions of a person's wellness including physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health; and

**WHEREAS**, the stigma of substance use disorders poses one of the biggest barriers to treatment and recovery, keeping people from attaining their highest potential; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee has made landmark investments through the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, TennCare, and the Opioid Abatement Council to increase availability of substance use disorder treatment services for its residents with the least resources to pay for this life-saving care; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee has additionally expanded wrap-around supports to ensure that investments in a person's treatment translate into long-term recovery; and

**WHEREAS**, collaborating with federal partners, Tennessee is investing tens of millions of dollars in substance use disorder treatment and recovery support services to ensure that providers have the workforce necessary to meet the need; and

**WHEREAS**, the men and women working in this field, many of them with their own stories of recovery, restoration, and rebirth, are truly creating collaborative pathways to resiliency, recovery, and independence in alignment with the mission and vision of the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Use Services;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim February 2025 as

*Substance Use Disorder Treatment 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 sixteenth day of January 2025.

*Bill Lee*

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Governor

*Joe Rungt*

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Secretary of State