



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of State estimates 463,634 individuals age 12 or older are sexually assaulted each year; and

WHEREAS, every 68 seconds another American is sexually assaulted and every 9 minutes, that victim is a child; and

WHEREAS, out of every 1,000 sexual assaults, 975 perpetrators will walk free; and

WHEREAS, 8 out of 10 rapes are committed by someone who knows the victim; and

WHEREAS, of sexual abuse cases reported to law enforcement, 93% of juvenile victims knew the perpetrator; 59% were acquaintances, 34% were family members, and 7% were strangers to the victim; and

WHEREAS, victims of sexual assault should have access to medical and legal services, counseling, transitional housing, and other supportive services so that they can heal from the trauma; and

WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the compassion and dedication of the individuals who provide services to victims of sexual violence and work to increase public understanding of this significant problem; and

WHEREAS, local programs, state coalitions, national organizations, and other agencies nationwide are committed to increasing public awareness of sexual assault and its prevalence, and to eliminating it through prevention and education; and

WHEREAS, our State has a responsibility to work to prevent sexual assault and to address its harmful and adverse effects;

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

Sexual Assault 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 third day of April 2025.

Bill Lee

Governor

Julie Hunt

Secretary of State