



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the term "victim" is more than just a label and has legal standing and protections that go along with it; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Justice Statistics reported 22.5 violent victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older; and

WHEREAS, about 2 in 5 (42%) violent victimizations were reported to police in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the crime victims' rights acts passed in Tennessee and at the federal level guarantee victims the right to participate and use their voice in the criminal justice process; and

WHEREAS, victim service providers, advocates, law enforcement officers, attorneys, and other allied professionals can help survivors find justice by enforcing these rights; and

WHEREAS, the right to provide an impact statement ensures that victims' voices are considered in court during the sentencing and, when applicable, restitution processes; and

WHEREAS, including and elevating the voices of survivors makes certain they are heard and seen and creates a path to forging and sustaining community trust; and

WHEREAS, survivors' lived experience can serve as a catalyst for implementing innovative programs, shifting existing programs in new directions, and changing policies or practices that prevent survivors from accessing services or pursuing justice; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee is hereby dedicated to amplifying the voices of survivors and creating an environment where survivors have the confidence that they will be heard, believed, and supported;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim April 6-12, 2025 as

Crime Victims' Rights Week

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 eighth day of April 2025.

Bill Lee

Governor

Jo Knight

Secretary of State