



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, colorectal cancer is the fourth-leading cause of cancer deaths in Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, colorectal cancer is one of the few cancers that can be prevented with timely screening, but 1 in 3 eligible Tennesseans are not up to date on screening; and

**WHEREAS**, colorectal cancer is a leading cause of cancer death among people under 50 in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2025, there were approximately 3,450 new cases and 1,360 deaths from colorectal cancer in Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, when colon cancer is found at an early stage (stage I-II), the 5-year survival rate is 91%, versus 16% when found at stage IV; and

**WHEREAS**, Americans in rural areas are more likely to be diagnosed with and die from colorectal cancer than Americans in urban areas; and

**WHEREAS**, Black Tennesseans are more likely to be diagnosed with colorectal cancer and more likely to die from the disease than White Tennesseans; and

**WHEREAS**, the national goal established by the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable is to strive to increase timely colorectal cancer screening rates to 80 percent in every community for all Americans eligible for screening; and

**WHEREAS**, observing a Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month during the month of March provides a special opportunity to increase awareness and offer education on the importance of early detection and screening of colorectal cancer;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim March 2026 as

*Colorectal 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 twenty-fifth day of February 2026.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Joe Dargatzis*

Secretary of State