



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Down syndrome, a lifelong condition also known as trisomy 21, occurs when an individual has an additional full or partial chromosome 21. It is the most common chromosomal condition worldwide, affecting approximately one in every 800 live births; and

WHEREAS, people with Down syndrome possess a wide range of abilities and are active participants in educational, occupational, social, and recreational circles of our communities; and

WHEREAS, all individuals with Down syndrome are unique with variable levels of learning and physical abilities, communication styles, and a range of physical characteristics and health profiles; and

WHEREAS, access to research, health care, early intervention, speech and language programs, occupational and physical therapies, inclusive education, and employment and social opportunities are imperative to the development, progress, and independence of individuals with Down syndrome; and

WHEREAS, Tennesseans and all people with Down syndrome should be empowered to achieve the universally desired goals of self-fulfillment, pride in their achievements, inclusion in their community, and reaching their fullest potential; and

WHEREAS, we honor and commend the many achievements and valuable contributions that individuals with Down syndrome bring to Tennessee families, communities, and society; and

WHEREAS, further education, awareness, and support for Down syndrome is still needed today to ensure the dignity, success, and inclusion of individuals with Down syndrome;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim March 21, 2026 as

Down Syndrome Awareness Day

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-third day of March 2026.

Bill Lee

Governor

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Secretary of State