



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, mental health encompasses an individual's emotional, psychological, and social wellbeing and is essential to an individual's overall wellbeing; and

**WHEREAS**, a lack of mental health awareness and pervasive stigma, along with the challenges of access can hinder individuals from seeking necessary mental health treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, the state supports a comprehensive public behavioral health continuum for Tennesseans without means to obtain prevention, education, early intervention, treatment, and recovery support services; and

**WHEREAS**, collaboration among the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Bureau of TennCare, along with the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations and other community stakeholders across the state has led to remarkable progress and alignment of benefits for individuals of all ages; and

**WHEREAS**, continued responsible fiscal management by state leaders, combined with innovative problem-solving approaches from TennCare, has facilitated historic investments of state funds and the reinvestment of federal cost savings to create and expand evidence-based, outcomes-focused programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the multi-generational impact of these pathways to recovery, resiliency, and independence will resonate for decades to come, strengthening individuals, families, and communities;

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

*Mental Health 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-second day of April 2026.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*John R. Hight*

Secretary of State

