



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, older Tennesseans are valued members of our communities, who deserve to be treated with respect and dignity to enable them to live safely, independently, to serve as leaders, mentors and volunteers; and

**WHEREAS**, elder abuse is any act that harms an older person or jeopardizes his or her health or welfare, is a tragedy inflicted on vulnerable older Tennesseans and is an ever-increasing problem that crosses all socio-economic boundaries; and

**WHEREAS**, 2025 marks the 19th Annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD), representing the one day in the year when the entire world focuses on elder abuse, one of the most unrecognized, underreported and unaddressed issues facing older, vulnerable adults; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference spearheaded the drafting, enactment, and implementation of a series of Public Acts to more clearly define and more effectively deter neglect, abuse, financial exploitation and harm to our elder population; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Office of Criminal Justice Programs provides funding to the Tennessee Department of Human Services and local non-profits to assist older and vulnerable victims of crime to restore a sense of safety in their lives, to provide advocacy for their needs; to support them through the court process and to assist with their healing as a result of their victimization; and

**WHEREAS**, all Tennesseans have a responsibility to serve as protectors of vulnerable adults, to promote the programs and organizations that serve them and to participate in community efforts to improve the safety and well-being of all people throughout the state;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim June 15, 2025 as

*Elder Abuse 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 eleventh day of May 2025.



*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Jo Ann Watts*

Secretary of State