

**Gov. Bill Lee Remarks – Prepared for Delivery  
White House Press Briefing: Protecting America’s Seniors  
April 30, 2020**

Thank you, President Trump. Thank you for your leadership. Thank you to your team. You all are guiding America through a unique and challenging time in our history and you’re doing a great job – thank you.

I am proud to be with you today representing the great state of Tennessee as we talk about our contributions to fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

President Trump has challenged states to test 2% of our populations every month. With the power of the private sector and state-led efforts, we tested 2% of Tennesseans in April with more than 170,000 COVID-19 tests conducted.

As we look to May, we will work to again meet President Trump’s testing goal with an emphasis on our vulnerable populations, especially those in nursing homes.

Scripture describes being hard pressed on every side, but not crushed. I believe that’s where Tennesseans are, and I believe that’s where all Americans are.

I believe that’s especially true for the elderly and for those in nursing homes, and they need our help.

In Tennessee, we’ve committed to testing every resident and staff member in our more than 700 long-term care facilities.

It is a tremendous undertaking, but one that honors the value of these lives. Lives that have protected our country in times of trouble. Lives that represent the Greatest Generation. And lives that carry a loving legacy of being grandparents, friends and neighbors.

It is our turn to protect them through continued social distancing efforts. The distance can feel like a gulf - I haven’t hugged my own mom in 8 weeks. But we are doing right by our fellow citizens to take great personal responsibility in this fight, while valuing our freedoms in the process.

While our country may feel hard-pressed, we are not crushed. Thank you, Mr. President and God bless our country

\*Watch Gov. Lee's remarks [here](#).