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CONTACT: John Chobanian
(615) 610-1881

Governor's Foundation CEO Issues Statement on Gubernatorial Candidates' Forum on Health

NASHVILLE – Governor's Foundation for Health and Wellness CEO Richard Johnson issued a statement following the gubernatorial candidates' forum on health, which was jointly hosted by the Governor's Foundation and the Nashville Health Care Council at Trevecca Nazarene University earlier today:

“Tennessee faces major health issues related to affordability, accessibility, accountability, and prevention, despite the fact that health-related spending now consumes nearly a third of the state's budget.

“We are pleased that each of the five participating candidates made it clear that health will be one of the highest priorities of their administration, and that local, community efforts to improve health outcomes are key to sustained wellness improvements. Our Healthier Tennessee Communities initiative, which is now underway in more than 100 towns, counties, and neighborhoods across the state, is a prime example of that grassroots approach.

“I want to express my sincere appreciation to the candidates who joined today's discussion. I am encouraged that our next governor will be committed to helping Tennessee move up the national rankings in overall health and encouraging the kind of significant improvements in health and wellbeing that we have experienced in education over the past decade.”

To learn more about the Governor's Foundation for Health and Wellness, Healthier Tennessee Communities™, and the Small Starts® approach to healthy behavior change, visit <https://healthierTN.com>. An archived livestream of today's gubernatorial candidates' forum will be available at <https://tennessean.com>.

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The ***Governor's Foundation for Health and Wellness*** is a non-profit corporation dedicated to enabling and encouraging Tennesseans to lead healthier lives. Based in Nashville, the Foundation brings together a statewide coalition of employers, health insurers, hospital systems, local governments, school systems and healthcare-focused foundations and community organizations to effect positive, measurable change. The Foundation's Healthier Tennessee initiative strives to increase the number of Tennesseans who are physically active for at least 30 minutes five times a week, promote a healthy diet, and reduce the number of people who use tobacco. For more information, visit <https://healthierstate.org>.