



# Proclamation

## By the Governor of Alabama

*WHEREAS, it is with sincere appreciation that Betty Bell, a champion for children, is remembered for her dedication and hope provided to the people of Alabama, especially many of our youngest citizens; and*

*WHEREAS, the future pioneer for early intervention in Alabama, Ms. Bell moved to Birmingham in 1970 to lead the infant and toddler center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham's (UAB)'s center for developmental learning disorders; and*

*WHEREAS, after the grant for the infant and toddler center was exhausted in 1983, Ms. Bell, in partnership with volunteers from the Service Guild of Birmingham, established a new program in a small Sunday school room at Trinity United Methodist Church in Homewood, Alabama; and*

*WHEREAS, in 1994, due to the program's growth, it moved into its own facility and was later named in Ms. Bell's honor in 2002; and*

*WHEREAS, under Ms. Bell's leadership, The Bell Center has made immeasurable impacts in the lives of hundreds of children and families, who often arrive in state of fear, but leave knowing their child is going to thrive; and*

*WHEREAS, Ms. Bell remained active at The Bell Center and continued to change lives for the better. After all, the children The Bell Center served were her life; and*

*WHEREAS, Ms. Bell's work continues to be replicated around the nation in other early intervention programs, and there is no doubt the lives of children with special needs and their families have been forever changed through the love, commitment and legacy of Ms. Bell; and*

*WHEREAS, Ms. Bell's legacy will stand the test of time, always to be recognized by those who had the privilege of knowing and learning from her, The Bell Center and the entire state of Alabama;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim March 18, 2023, as*

# Betty Bell Day

*in the state of Alabama and urge all Alabamians to reflect upon Ms. Bell's contributions to our state.*



*Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of February 2023.*

*Kay Ivey*  
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Kay Ivey, Governor