



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, fraud and financial abuse are greatly underreported, and there is a great need to educate and raise awareness of this devastating crime; and

WHEREAS, fraud and identity theft are some of the most costly crimes Americans face: in 2010, there were over 975,000 fraud and identity theft complaints in the U.S., with over 23,000 complaints reported in Tennessee resulting in Tennesseans losing more than \$20 million dollars to these crimes; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Division of Consumer Affairs within the Department of Commerce and Insurance works tirelessly to address and mediate consumer complaints of unfair and deceptive practices and fraud, to return funds to consumers, and to work with the Attorney General's Office and other local, state and federal agencies, to help in the prosecution of fraud; and

WHEREAS, in Tennessee, it is a crime for a caretaker to misuse government funds of an elderly or disabled adult; and

WHEREAS, public awareness of this very costly problem is the key to preventing further exploitation, abuse and loss of money; and

WHEREAS, the Adult Protective Services division within the Tennessee Department of Human Services and the Tennessee Commission on Aging & Disability are responsible for awareness, prevention, investigation, and reporting of fraud and financial abuse crimes against elderly and disabled adults in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the statewide Tennessee Vulnerable Adult Coalition, and the regional Coalitions in South Central, East, Upper Cumberland, Middle, West and Northeast Tennessee are grassroots organizations working to eliminate the costly crime of fraud and financial abuse, educate vulnerable adults about prevention strategies, identify suspicious signs/activities, and encourage reporting of such crimes as fraud and financial abuse, and ultimately reduce the rate of fraud and financial abuse among vulnerable adults; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Departments of Human Services and Commerce and Insurance, along with the Tennessee Commission on Aging & Disability declare fraud and financial abuse a state priority;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim October, 2011 as

FRAUD AND FINANCIAL ABUSE 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 19th day of September, 2011.

Governor

Secretary of State