



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, approximately one in every 2,200 individuals are born with gastroschisis in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the cause of gastroschisis is still largely unknown; and

**WHEREAS**, many Americans living with gastroschisis have serious and debilitating conditions that have a significant impact on the lives of those affected including but not limited to failure to thrive slow growth, short bowel syndrome, multiple organ transplants, and long term feeding issues; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals and families affected by gastroschisis may experience problems such as a sense of isolation, difficulty in obtaining an accurate and timely diagnosis, few treatment options, and problems related to accessing or being reimbursed for treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, Avery's Angels Gastroschisis Foundation (AAGF) is organizing a nationwide observance of Gastroschisis Awareness Day on July 30, 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, The son of the founder of Avery's Angels, Avery John Rauen, passed away from complications of his gastroschisis on July 30, 2009 at UNC hospital, and this date is to commemorate him and all others living with or deceased from gastroschisis;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim July 30, 2016 as

*Gastroschisis 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 sixteenth day of May, 2016.

*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*Ju Rignot*

Secretary of State