



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Tennessee's seniors are valued members of society, who deserve to live safely with dignity and as independently as possible with the supports they need; and

WHEREAS, elder abuse is any act that harms a senior or jeopardizes his or her health or welfare; and

WHEREAS, elder abuse is a tragedy inflicted on seniors and is an ever-increasing problem in today's society that crosses all socio-economic boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the Adult Protective Services (APS) Program of the Tennessee Department of Human Services and the Tennessee Commission on Aging & Disability (TCAD) are responsible for awareness, prevention, investigating, and reporting of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation, and, do hereby declare elder abuse, neglect and exploitation a priority in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the statewide Tennessee Vulnerable Adult Coalition (TVAC) and the regional coalitions in South Central, East, Upper Cumberland, West and Northeast Tennessee are grassroots organizations working to educate the elderly population about prevention strategies, to identify suspicious activities, to raise awareness, and to encourage reporting of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS), Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI), Tennessee Department of Health (TDOH) and other state organizations and leaders work in support of efforts to prevent elder abuse for the well-being of Tennessee seniors; and

WHEREAS, nationally and in Tennessee elder abuse is greatly underreported and there is a great need to increase education and awareness of this devastating crime; and

WHEREAS, all Tennesseans can help protect our elderly population, educating ourselves on how to assist them, serve as a resource, and be attentive to their needs;

WHEREAS, combating abuse and financial exploitation of elderly persons will help improve the quality of life for all seniors across the U.S. and Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's seniors shall be treated with respect and dignity to enable them to continue to serve as leaders, mentors, volunteers, and active members of this community;

WHEREAS, the well-being of Tennessee's seniors is in the interest of all and further adds to the well-being of Tennessee communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim June 15, 2016 as

Elder Abuse 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 third day of June, 2016.

Bill Haslam

Governor

Heidi Wertz

Secretary of State