



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, oral health impacts overall health and good oral health is essential to a healthy life; and

WHEREAS, when we practice good oral health habits we increase our smiles; and

WHEREAS, smiles are morale boosters and confidence builders and when you smile at someone, you communicate that they are valued and worth the smile that you just gave them; and

WHEREAS, it is important for individuals to care for their oral health by brushing their teeth for at least two minutes in the morning and at night before bed; and

WHEREAS, 53.6% of TN adults aged 18 and older have had one or more permanent teeth extracted, and 24.8% of TN adults aged 65 and older have had all their natural teeth extracted, according to the Tennessee Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey of 2012 (BRFSS); and

WHEREAS, only 38.6% of Tennesseans had visited a dentist or dental clinic within the past year in 2012 (BRFSS); and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Charitable Care Network (TCCN), with a mission to provide support, education, and representation for non-profit organizations that provide charitable health care services to low-income, uninsured, and underserved Tennesseans and a vision of a strong, compassionate health care safety net, strives to increase access to affordable oral health services for all Tennesseans in need;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim June 13-17, 2016 as

"Smile Power" Oral Health Week

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 second day of June, 2016.



Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Julie Hargrett in blue ink.

Secretary of State