



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, once thought to be a rare disease, sarcoidosis is now known to affect people of all ages, races, and genders; and

WHEREAS, sarcoidosis is an inflammatory disease that can affect almost any organ in the body and causes heightened immunity, a condition that results in overreaction of the immune system, resulting in damage to the body's own tissues; and

WHEREAS, the classic feature of sarcoidosis is the formation of granulomas, microscopic clumps of inflammatory cells that group together, interfering with organ function. In the United States, sarcoidosis most commonly targets the lungs and lymph nodes, but can also affect the skin, eyes, liver, salivary glands, sinuses, kidneys, heart, the muscles and bones, the brain and the nervous system; and

WHEREAS, the causes of sarcoidosis are not known and research in this area is ongoing; and

WHEREAS, we salute those who demonstrate great courage and determination in their efforts to cope with the disease; and we pay tribute to their family members and to other concerned Americans who engage in mass efforts to promote awareness of sarcoidosis, as well as improved treatment and support those affected by the disease; and

WHEREAS, while progress has been made in understanding the symptoms and better diagnosing the disease, there is still much to learn about sarcoidosis, but with increased research, the goal of discovering the cause, improving treatment and finding a cure is attainable;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of April, 2017 as

Sarcoidosis 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 fourteenth day of December, 2016.

Bill Haslam

Governor

Jeannette

Secretary of State