



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, strong families and healthy child development are the foundation for successful communities and a more prosperous state; and

**WHEREAS**, parent leadership is an essential and effective means of strengthening families and preventing child abuse and neglect; and

**WHEREAS**, parent leadership is a necessary component in any effective family strengthening and family support program; and

**WHEREAS**, meaningful parent leadership occurs when parents gain the knowledge and skills necessary to function in meaningful leadership roles and present a “parent voice” to help shape the direction of their families, parent support programs, and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, parent leadership is successfully achieved when parents receive support and training and share responsibility, expertise, and leadership in the planning, implementation, oversight, and evaluation of policies, practices, and programs that affect families and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, more parents each year are developing vital partnerships with service providers, policymakers, and key stakeholders to build stronger, safer communities for children; and

**WHEREAS**, the power of parents speaking publicly about their experiences has made, and will continue to make, an impact on the lives of Tennessee families;

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

*Parent Leadership 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 thirteenth day of January, 2017.

*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*Joe Kergett*

Secretary of State