



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Americans are the victims of more than 20 million crimes each year, and crime can touch the lives of anyone regardless of age, national origin, race, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, immigration, or economic status; and

WHEREAS, crime victims who fail to receive supportive services are at greater risk for long-term consequences of crime; and

WHEREAS, the victim services community has worked for decades to create an environment for victims that is safe, supportive, and effective; and

WHEREAS, intervening early with services that support and empower victims provides a pathway to recovery from crime and abuse; and

WHEREAS, honoring the rights of victims, including the right to be heard and to be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect, and working to meet their needs rebuilds their trust in the criminal justice and social service systems; and

WHEREAS, serving victims and rebuilding their trust restores hope to victims and survivors, as well as their communities; and

WHEREAS, we express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for those community members, victim service providers, and criminal justice professionals who are committed to improving our response to all victims of crime so that they may find relevant assistance, support, justice, and peace; and

WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 2-8, 2017, is an opportune time to commit to ensuring that all victims of crime—even those who are challenging to reach or serve—are offered accessible and appropriate services in the aftermath of crime;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of April 2-8, 2017 as

Crime Victims' Rights 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 thirty-first day of January, 2017.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Joe Wright in blue ink.

Secretary of State

