



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, ESOPHAGEAL CANCER on average kills one American every 36 minutes; and

**WHEREAS**, ESOPHAGEAL CANCER is among the deadliest of cancers, with fewer than one in five patients surviving five years; and

**WHEREAS**, ESOPHAGEAL CANCER has low survival rates because it is usually discovered at advanced stages when treatment outcomes are poor; and

**WHEREAS**, ESOPHAGEAL CANCER in the U.S. is most often caused by persistent heartburn or gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), yet many who are at risk are unaware of the potential danger GERD can present when it occurs over several weeks or months; and

**WHEREAS**, ESOPHAGEAL CANCER can be a silent killer with patients often unaware that the cough, hoarse voice, sore throat or chest pain they suffer can be signs of GERD and may be important warning signals to seek the advice of a qualified medical professional; and

**WHEREAS**, ESOPHAGEAL CANCER may develop from GERD when acid from the stomach creates cellular changes in the esophagus resulting in a precancerous condition known as Barrett's Esophagus, which can lead to an average 75-fold increase in a patient's risk of developing esophageal cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, ESOPHAGEAL CANCER, if detected and treated early through the non-cancerous precursor, Barrett's Esophagus, may substantially reduce a person's risk of developing esophageal cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, The ESOPHAGEAL CANCER ACTION NETWORK, ECAN, is working to improve public awareness of the link between Heartburn and Cancer and supports progress in early detection and treatment of Esophageal Cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, ESOPHAGEAL CANCER awareness, along with improvements in prevention, early detection and treatment strategies, will enhance the health and well-being of all Americans;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim April, 2012 as

## ESOPHAGEAL CANCER 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 27th day of April, 2012.

A blue ink signature of Bill Haslam, the Governor of Tennessee, written over a horizontal line.

Governor

A blue ink signature of Joe Wright, the Secretary of State of Tennessee, written over a horizontal line.

Secretary of State

