



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, up to 6 percent of people in the United States are estimated to have latex allergies, including approximately 9 of health care workers, 11 percent of elderly, and up to 46 percent of children with spina bifida; and

WHEREAS, exposure to natural rubber latex can result in death among patients with latex allergy and is a common cause of anaphylaxis in the operating room; and

WHEREAS, there is no cure for a latex allergy, and every exposure increases the sensitivity and severity of the patient's condition, with distress and rebound reactions potentially occurring for days after exposure; and

WHEREAS, latex allergies can only be prevented by avoiding all latex-related products, which can be found in homes, child care centers, stores, schools, workplaces, and health care environments, among other places; and

WHEREAS, natural rubber is found in over 40,000 products, including, but not limited to, hair accessories, toys, balloons, school and office supplies, sports equipment, and medical devices, resulting in a daily struggle for latex allergy patients to balance life and work with staying safe and healthy; and

WHEREAS, the Allergy and Asthma Network creates awareness of latex allergies through education and provides support to individuals who have been diagnosed with a latex allergy;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim October 1-7, 2017 as

Latex Allergy Awareness 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 twenty-first day of April, 2017.

Bill Haslam

Governor

Joe Hargett

Secretary of State