



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library provides one high-quality, age-appropriate book every month mailed to children from birth to age five, at no cost to families and regardless of income; and

WHEREAS, reading to a young child is the single most important thing parents can do to enhance a child's early brain development; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is home to more than 407,000 children under age five; and

WHEREAS, every one of those children has access to the Imagination Library program; and

WHEREAS, the not-for-profit Governor's Books from Birth Foundation - in partnership with The Dollywood Foundation, community leaders, and countless volunteers - is building a foundation for reading and learning through books for Tennessee's children; and

WHEREAS, the GBBF in partnership with volunteers statewide has sustained an Imagination Library program in each of Tennessee's 95 counties for the past 13 years; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's Imagination Library is made financially possible through a unique use of public, private and corporate funding; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is the first and only state in the nation to offer the Imagination Library in every county; and

WHEREAS, the Imagination Library was created to be a free gift given by the community to all children - serving as an educational common denominator; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of Imagination Library Week will provide communities across the state an opportunity to fundraise, register more children, and increase local awareness of this effective program which is offered free to each child;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, and Crissy Haslam, First Lady of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of September 17-23, 2017, as

Imagination Library 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 eighteenth day of July, 2017.

Bill Haslam

Governor

Crissy Haslam

First Lady

Lee Hargett

Secretary of State