



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**P R O C L A M A T I O N**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, on average, 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner in the U.S. — more than 12 million women and men over the course of a year; and

**WHEREAS**, 1 out of every 10 teenagers in the U.S. are physically hurt on purpose by someone they are dating; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 15.5 million children in the U.S. are exposed to domestic violence every year; and

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence offenses make up 51.3% of all Crimes Against Persons in Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, the crime of domestic violence violates an individual's privacy, dignity, security and humanity due to the systematic use of physical, emotional, sexual, psychological, and economic control and/or abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, victims should have help to find the safety, comfort, and healing they need, and domestic abusers should held accountable; and

**WHEREAS**, victims of violence should have access to medical and legal services, counseling, transitional housing, and other supportive services so that they can escape the cycle of abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to recognize the compassion and dedication of the individuals who provide services to victims of domestic violence and work to increase public understanding of this significant problem; and

**WHEREAS**, local programs, state coalitions, national organizations, and other agencies nationwide are committed to increasing public awareness of domestic violence and its prevalence, and to eliminating it through prevention and education; and

**WHEREAS**, we have a moral obligation to work to prevent domestic violence and to address its brutal and destructive effects; and

**WHEREAS**, citizens are urged to actively participate in the scheduled activities and programs sponsored by local domestic violence and child advocacy centers across Tennessee to work towards the elimination of personal and institutional violence for all Tennessee citizens;

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

*Domestic Violence 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 twenty-eighth day of August, 2017.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Sue Bergatt in blue ink.

Secretary of State

