



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, an ostomy is a type of surgery that creates an opening (stoma) in the abdomen that allows for the removal of bodily waste when a person has lost the normal function of digestive or urinary systems due to birth defects, colorectal cancer, bladder cancer, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, and other medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, over 750,000 Americans have an ostomy, with approximately 120,000 new ostomy procedures performed each year; and

WHEREAS, ostomy or continent diversion surgery can occur at any age and does not lower life expectancy; and

WHEREAS, largely through the efforts of United Ostomy Associations of America, Inc., (UOAA) and its over 300 Affiliated Support Groups, Americans needing these surgeries are becoming more aware of the opportunities for education, mutual aid, advocacy and support that are of such great benefit to them and their families; and

WHEREAS, public education and awareness is vital to ensure those who are living with an ostomy face no discrimination and are accepted as normal, healthy individuals; and

WHEREAS, through education and awareness we can erase the myths, stigma and embarrassment that are sometimes associated with having an ostomy;

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

Ostomy Awareness Day

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 twelfth day of September, 2017.

Bill Haslam

Governor

Julie Kirtz

Secretary of State