



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Neuromyelitis Optica (NMO) is a rare autoimmune disorder in which the immune system cells and antibodies primarily attack the optic nerves and spinal cord; and

**WHEREAS**, NMO causes damage to the optic nerves and spinal cord which can lead to inflammation, pain, loss of vision, weakness, paralysis in the legs and arms, loss of sensation, and problems with bladder and bowel function; and

**WHEREAS**, NMO is more common in women than men by 80 percent, and occurs in all parts of the world; and

**WHEREAS**, NMO can occur at any age, but the most common age of onset is between 32 and 41; and

**WHEREAS**, early diagnosis of NMO is critical, and if untreated can lead to devastating and irreversible effects, and while there is no cure for NMO, with early detection, individuals diagnosed can receive medical attention; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to improve public awareness of NMO so it can be diagnosed at the earliest stage possible and proper treatment can begin;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim March, 2018 as

*Neuromyelitis Optica 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 third day of January, 2018.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Haslam".

Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott W. Fitzgerald".

Secretary of State

