



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, nationwide, approximately 5 million people have developmental disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, in Tennessee, more than 103,000 adults and children have developmental disabilities, and the vast majority of these individuals are primarily or solely supported throughout their lifespan by their families; and

**WHEREAS**, people with developmental disabilities share with all Tennesseans the desire to achieve personal success through education, meaningful work, and family and community ties; and

**WHEREAS**, every person, regardless of ability, has valuable strengths, infinite capacity to learn and the potential to make important contributions to their local communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee is committed to encouraging innovation and higher expectations in how communities offer supports to individuals with disabilities and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month" is an appropriate time to recognize Tennessee's public policy accomplishments concerning persons with disabilities and to also identify improvements to public policy that facilitate full inclusion of Tennessee's citizens with developmental disabilities and their families;

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

*Developmental Disabilities  
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 nineteenth day of January, 2018.



*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*Lee Hargett*

Secretary of State