



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, congenital heart defects are the most frequently occurring birth defect, and the leading cause of birth defect related deaths worldwide; and

WHEREAS, more than one million families across America are facing the challenges and hardships of raising children with congenital heart defects; and

WHEREAS, every year, as many as 40,000 babies are born in the United States with congenital heart defects; and

WHEREAS, some congenital heart defects are not diagnosed until months or years after birth; and

WHEREAS, undiagnosed congenital heart conditions can cause sudden cardiac death in young athletes; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for increased awareness of congenital heart defects and support for continued research; and

WHEREAS, the observance of congenital heart defect awareness week provides an opportunity for families whose lives have been affected to celebrate life and remember loved ones lost, to honor dedicated health professionals, and to meet others and know they are not alone; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of congenital heart defect awareness week will also provide the opportunity to share experience and information with the public and the media in order to raise public awareness about congenital heart defects;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of February 7-14, 2015, as

Congenital Heart Defect Awareness 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 sixteenth day of January, 2015.

Bill Haslam

Governor

Joe Bergt

Secretary of State