



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Americans are the victims of 20 million crimes each year, affecting individuals and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, years of investment in crime victims' rights and services have developed a system of victim response that can help victims recover from crime; and

**WHEREAS**, reaching and serving all victims of crime is essential to supporting thriving communities, because those who receive holistic services and support are more likely to remain invested in their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, dedicated victim service providers work every day to meet the needs of crime victims, yet there are still too many victims without meaningful access to rights and services; and

**WHEREAS**, many victims face barriers that keep them from accessing the services and criminal justice systems that can help them recover from crime; and

**WHEREAS**, we must make a dedicated effort to expand the circle of those prepared to respond to victims and link them to the resources that can help them recover; and

**WHEREAS**, engaging a broader array of healthcare providers, community leaders, faith organizations, educators, and businesses can provide new links between victims and services that improve their safety, healing, and access to justice; and

**WHEREAS**, National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to recommit to ensuring that all victims of crime-especially those who are challenging to reach or serve-are afforded their rights and receive a trauma-informed response; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee state agencies which serve victims of crime are in 2018 making a decade of honoring victims of crime and the local advocates who serve them through tree planting ceremonies and other events; and

**WHEREAS**, The Tennessee Board of Parole, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, and the Tennessee Department of Correction Victim Service professionals are dedicated to strengthening victims and survivors in the aftermath of crime, building resilience in our communities and our victim responders, and working for justice for all victims and survivors;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim April 8-14, 2018 as

*Crime Victims' Rights 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 seventh day of March, 2018.

*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*John D. Ragsdale*

Secretary of State