



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, myositis is a general term describing a number of Idiopathic Inflammatory Myopathies, which are rare diseases affecting 50-75,000 people in the United States and are thought to be autoimmune in nature causing muscle weakness, inflammation, pain, skin rashes, lung disease, impairment in swallowing, and life-altering fatigue; and

WHEREAS, there is no cure for any form of Myositis and very few and limited treatment options, which can have harsh side effects; and

WHEREAS, partially due to the rarity of Myositis, and partially due to its similarities to other conditions, a diagnosis is often delayed or misdiagnosed causing treatment postponement that may lead to permanent muscle loss and disability; and

WHEREAS, education and support for patients, caregivers, and healthcare providers is essential to the overall health of patients; and

WHEREAS, Myositis can affect both children and adults of all ages with symptoms developing over weeks, months, or years while often mimicking other less-rare diseases; and

WHEREAS, it is important to raise awareness of this condition, which can lead to advancements in research, treatment, and finding a cure for Myositis;

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

Myositis 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 March, 2018.

Bill Haslam

Governor

Joe Kergett

Secretary of State