



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, older Tennesseans are valued members of society, who deserve to live safely with dignity and as independently as possible with the supports they need; and

WHEREAS, elder abuse is any act that harms an older person or jeopardizes his or her health or welfare; and

WHEREAS, elder abuse is a tragedy inflicted on vulnerable older Tennesseans and is an ever-increasing problem in today's society that crosses all socio-economic boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the Adult Protective Services (APS) Program of the Tennessee Department of Human Services and the Tennessee Commission on Aging & Disability (TCAD) are responsible for awareness, prevention, investigating, and reporting of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation – a priority in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the statewide Tennessee Vulnerable Adult Coalition (TVAC) and the regional coalitions in Middle, South Central, East, Upper Cumberland, West and Northeast Tennessee are grassroots organizations working to educate older Tennesseans about prevention strategies, to identify suspicious activities, to raise awareness, and to encourage reporting of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS), Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI), Tennessee Department of Health (TDOH) and other state organizations and leaders work in support of efforts to prevent elder abuse for the well-being of older Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, nationally and in Tennessee elder abuse is greatly underreported and there is a significant need to increase education and awareness of this devastating crime; and

WHEREAS, all Tennesseans serve as gatekeepers for the older population, educating ourselves on how to empower and assist them, serve as a resource, and be attentive to supports and services as we all grow older; and

WHEREAS, combating abuse and exploitation of Tennessee's older population will help improve the quality of life for all across the state and U.S.; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's older population shall be treated with respect and dignity to enable them to continue to serve as leaders, mentors, volunteers, and active members of this community; and

WHEREAS, the well-being of older Tennesseans is in the interest of all and further builds the foundation of a thriving Tennessee;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim June 15, 2018 as

Elder Abuse Awareness Day

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 twenty-third day of May, 2018.

Bill Haslam

Governor

Lee Hargett

Secretary of State