



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Arachnoiditis is a rare, acute inflammatory disease that affects the membranes that cover and protect the brain, spinal cord, and nerve roots; and

**WHEREAS**, this inflammation causes a variety of neurological deficits, as well as chronic, debilitating, and neuropathic pain; and

**WHEREAS**, the causes of Arachnoiditis include injury due to surgical interventions, especially spinal operations, trauma to the spinal cord, epidural disc prolapse, injections, or other damage; and infections that may cause viral, fungal, or bacterial meningitis; and

**WHEREAS**, the precise prevalence and incidence of Arachnoiditis is unknown; however, evidence suggests that there may be as many as 11,000 new cases occur each year in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Arachnoiditis affects more females than males, which may possibly be the result of more than sixty percent of pregnant women in the United States, receiving spinal or epidural anesthesia during childbirth; an estimated four percent of these women will develop Arachnoiditis; and

**WHEREAS**, currently, there is no complete cure for Arachnoiditis, but there are therapies that may lessen the associated debilitating pain and suffering; and

**WHEREAS**, because this disease may occur due to complications of surgery or epidural injection, increased awareness is imperative for both the public and health care providers; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to learn about the risk and symptoms of Arachnoiditis; advocate research for a cure; and support those and their families affected by this disease in their communities;

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

*Arachnoiditis 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 third day of July, 2018.

*Bill Haslam*  
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Governor

*Joe Ricketts*  
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Secretary of State