



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is a term used to refer to a group of diseases that cause airflow obstruction and breathing related problems, including emphysema, chronic bronchitis, and in some cases, asthma and severe bronchiectasis; and

WHEREAS, COPD is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States and nearly 155,000 people died from COPD in 2016; and

WHEREAS, COPD is a chronic and progressive disease that affects 16 million adults that have been diagnosed, including 9.4% of adults in Tennessee, and millions more who have symptoms but are undiagnosed; and

WHEREAS, COPD is a leading cause of disability in the US, with two thirds of diagnosed adults under the age of 65; and

WHEREAS, smoking is the primary risk factor for COPD, and other risk factors include environmental and occupational exposure to air pollution, second hand smoke, as well as genetic conditions such as alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency; and

WHEREAS, nationwide the cost of COPD is between \$40-70 billion including healthcare services, indirect costs through loss of productivity, and the deterioration of personal health; and

WHEREAS, the first ever COPD National Action Plan was released by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute in 2017 to provide a framework for a multi-stakeholder, public and private response to lower the burden of COPD in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, while there is no cure for COPD; increased awareness, earlier detection, proper treatment and management can slow the progression of the disease and lead to reduced costs, improved quality of life and self-sufficiency for our residents and;

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

COPD 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 fifteenth day of October, 2018.



Governor

Secretary of State