



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Adverse Childhood Experiences; also known as ACEs, such as abuse, neglect, witness to violence, parental incarceration or death, or a parent who suffers from substance abuse or mental illness, are harmful events that can impact a child in all areas of life and throughout their entire life as individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, studies in the fields of neurobiology, psychology, epigenetics, child development, and medicine, among others, show that ACEs can cause toxic stress in children that can have lasting consequences to their physical and emotional health well into adulthood, and can be passed on to the next generation; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows that as the number of ACEs and exposure to toxic stress increase, so do the risks for negative health outcomes such as chronic diseases, obesity, premature death, mental illness, substance abuse, incarceration, and becoming a victim of violence; and

**WHEREAS**, since over 60% of adults in Tennessee have at least one ACE, our state is increasing its efforts and dedicating additional resources to transform how we address ACEs and promoting cultural change to better prevent and mitigate ACEs; and

**WHEREAS**, together, we can break the cycle of trauma whenever possible, by wrapping holistic services around children and families in need of such supports; and

**WHEREAS**, by helping Tennesseans understand the impact of ACEs and investing in preventive systems and services, we can provide solutions to many long-standing challenges we face as a state in health, mental health, social services, child protection, and juvenile and criminal justice systems; and

**WHEREAS**, the future economic development and prosperity of Tennessee depends on our ability to foster the health and well-being of the next generation by helping children and families build resilience to adversity through safe, stable, and nurturing relationships in the home and community;

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

*Adverse Childhood Experiences  
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 twenty-eighth day of November, 2018.



Governor



Secretary of State

