



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Gum Disease Awareness Month is an annual health-promotion event directed at helping people make lifelong improvements in their health and quality of life by sharing information and spreading awareness with a key message of encouragement to take an active role in preventing gum disease with simple tools and habit changes; and

**WHEREAS**, mounting university research indicates gum disease is associated with heart disease, stroke, some cancers, and pre-term low birth weight infants, and is a precursor to diabetes; and

**WHEREAS**, between 74% and 85% of Americans suffer some degree of gum disease but less than half are aware; and

**WHEREAS**, building awareness can improve community health and prevent serious health consequences; and

**WHEREAS**, reliable oral health information, including how to prevent and treat gum, is important to protecting and promoting the oral health, and in turn, the overall health, of the people in this community; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to educate citizens about the advanced treatment options that can help them address the symptoms of moderate to severe gum disease and the dangerous consequences of leaving it untreated; and

**WHEREAS**, Gum Disease Awareness Month supports community health by disseminating important information and the tips and tools to empower citizens to make powerful improvements to their health and the health of their families;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim February, 2013, as

## GUM DISEASE 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 5th day of September, 2012.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Joe Rangel in blue ink.

Secretary of State

