



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) is a leading inherited cause of infant death; and

**WHEREAS**, SMA causes degeneration in voluntary muscle movement for those impacted by the disease, eventually impacting the ability to walk, sit, crawl, stand, breathe, eat, and even swallow; and

**WHEREAS**, one in every 40 to 60 people unknowingly carries the gene responsible for SMA, and few have any known family history; and

**WHEREAS**, SMA is a pan-ethnic disease that does not discriminate based on race, ethnicity, or gender; and

**WHEREAS**, SMA does not impact the mind, and children with SMA are bright, sensitive, and playful in spite of their failing bodies; and

**WHEREAS**, most children impacted by SMA succumb to the disease before their second birthday; and

**WHEREAS**, there is currently no treatment and no cure for SMA; and

**WHEREAS**, increased awareness of SMA will lead to increased knowledge and increased support for both disease research and families affected by the disease, hopefully leading to a cure; and

**WHEREAS**, August has been declared as National Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month in order to raise awareness and help promote research into this devastating disease;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of August 2012, as

## **SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY (SMA) 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 first day of August, 2012.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Joe Rought in blue ink.

Secretary of State

