



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Safe Haven Law went into effect on July 1, 2001 and was amended in May 2009, and allows a mother to relinquish a newborn infant within 72 hours of the child's birth to personnel at a hospital, birthing center, community health clinic, outpatient, or walk-in clinic, anonymously and free from fear of prosecution; and

**WHEREAS**, relinquished babies then may become custody of the state, and are placed in a responsible and nurturing safe haven; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Safe Haven Law provides a safe alternative to abandonment for Tennessee mothers who feel they cannot care for a newborn baby; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the hope of the State of Tennessee that as awareness of this law increases, it will stop the abandonment of newborn infants, a practice that has led to healthy babies being found harmed, deceased or in unsafe places; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Safe Haven Law is a critical statute in the State of Tennessee, as it affords the chance of a better life for abandoned newborn babies, but continued public awareness of this law is necessary to fulfill the goals of protecting all newborn infants and providing mothers with a responsible and safe mechanism to relinquish a newborn infant;

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

*Safe Haven 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 twelfth day of February, 2013.

A blue ink signature of Bill Haslam, Governor of Tennessee.

Governor

A blue ink signature of Julie Kuntz, Secretary of State of Tennessee.

Secretary of State

