



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer on average kills one American every thirty-eight minutes; and

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer is among the deadliest of cancers, with only about one in five patients surviving five years; and

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer has low survival rates because it is usually discovered at advanced stages when treatment outcomes are poor; and

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer can be a silent killer with patients often unaware that the cough, hoarse voice, sore throat or chest pain they suffer can be signs of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and may be important warning signals to seek the advice of a qualified medical professional; and

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer may develop from GERD when acid from the stomach creates cellular changes in the esophagus resulting in a precancerous condition known as Barrett's Esophagus, which can lead to a 30- to 125-fold increase in a patient's risk of developing esophageal cancer; and

WHEREAS, a person's risk of developing esophageal cancer may be substantially reduced if detected and treated early through the non-cancerous precursor, Barrett's Esophagus; and

WHEREAS, the Esophageal Cancer Action Network, ECAN, is working to improve public awareness of the link between heartburn and cancer and supports progress in early detection and treatment of Esophageal Cancer; and

WHEREAS, esophageal cancer awareness, along with improvements in prevention, early detection and treatment strategies, may enhance the health and well-being of many Americans;

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

Esophageal Cancer 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 eighth day of March, 2013.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Bill Haslam".

Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joe Wapitt".

Secretary of State