



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, as many as 15 million Americans have food allergies, including as many as one in every 13 children, or roughly two children per classroom; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows that the prevalence of food allergy is increasing among children; and

**WHEREAS**, eight foods cause 90% of all food allergy reactions in the United States - shellfish, fish, milk, eggs, tree nuts, peanuts, soy, and wheat; and

**WHEREAS**, symptoms of a food-allergic reaction can include hives, vomiting, diarrhea, respiratory distress, and swelling of the throat; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, food allergy results in more than 300,000 ambulatory care visits a year involving children under 18, with reactions typically occurring when an individual unknowingly eats a food containing an ingredient to which they are allergic; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no cure for food allergy, and scientists do not understand why; and

**WHEREAS**, strict avoidance of the offending food is the only way to prevent an allergic reaction; and

**WHEREAS**, anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death; and

**WHEREAS**, Food Allergy Research & Awareness (FARE) is a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness about food allergy and anaphylaxis; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of May 12-18, 2013, as

## *Food Allergy Awareness Week*

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 eighteenth day of March, 2013.

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

Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Keith Hargett".

Secretary of State