



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Huntington's Disease is a genetic, neurodegenerative disease that typically affects people in mid-life, and places each child of an affected parent at risk of inheriting the expanded gene responsible for causing the disease; and

**WHEREAS**, through the Huntington's Disease Society of America (HDSA) Tennessee Affiliate support and services will be provided to families living with Huntington's Disease here in Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, Huntington's Disease is a rare and orphan disease affecting as many as 30,000 Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, the average lifespan after onset of Huntington's Disease is 10-30 years, and the younger the age of onset, the more rapid the progression of the disease, meaning children who develop the juvenile form of the disease may not live to adulthood; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1993 when the gene that causes Huntington's Disease was discovered, research into the causes has explored many new avenues and approaches including focus on way to delay onset of the disease, development of effective therapies that may slow the progression of the disease, and ultimately a cure for the disease; and

**WHEREAS**, there is at present no effective treatment or cure for Huntington's Disease, and raising awareness is critical to the advancement of vital research and support services;

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

## *Huntington's 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 twenty-second day of March, 2013.



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

Governor

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

Secretary of State