



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, nationally and in Tennessee, fraud and financial abuse are greatly underreported and there is a great need to educate and raise awareness about these devastating crimes; and

**WHEREAS**, fraud and identity theft are some of the costliest crimes Americans face. In 2012, there were more than 1.4 million fraud and identity theft complaints in the United States, with more than 33,000 complaints originating in Tennessee and resulting in losses of almost \$24 million to these crimes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Division of Consumer Affairs within the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance works tirelessly to address and mediate consumer complaints of unfair and deceptive practices and fraud, to return funds to consumers, and to work with the Attorney General's Office and other local, state and federal agencies to help in the prosecution of fraud; and

**WHEREAS**, in Tennessee, it is a crime for a caretaker to misuse government funds of an elderly or disabled adult; and

**WHEREAS**, public awareness of this costly problem is the key to preventing further exploitation/abuse and loss of money; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Commission on Aging & Disability and the Adult Protective Services Division within the Tennessee Department of Human Services are responsible for awareness, investigation, and reporting of fraud and financial abuse crimes against elderly and disabled adults in Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, the statewide Tennessee Vulnerable Adult Coalition, and the regional coalitions in South Central, East, Upper Cumberland, Middle, West and Northeast Tennessee are grassroots organizations working to eliminate the costly crimes of fraud and financial abuse, to educate vulnerable adults about prevention strategies, to identify suspicious activities, to raise awareness of the red flags of financial exploitation, to encourage reporting of such crimes as fraud and financial abuse, and ultimately to reduce the rates of fraud and financial abuse among vulnerable adults; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Departments of Human Services and Commerce and Insurance, along with the Tennessee Commission on Aging & Disability, declare fraud and financial abuse a state priority;

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

*Fraud and Financial Abuse 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 thirtieth day of August, 2013.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Joe Knight in blue ink.

Secretary of State

