



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is a term used to refer to a group of diseases that cause airflow obstruction and breathing related problems, including emphysema, chronic bronchitis, and in some cases, asthma and severe bronchiectasis; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2011 COPD was the third leading cause of death in the United States, 12 years earlier than predicted, killing one person every four minutes; and

**WHEREAS**, COPD is a chronic and progressive disease that affects an estimated 400,000 Tennesseans and an estimated 22 million persons nationwide, many of whom have not been fully diagnosed, and 70% of whom are under age 65; and

**WHEREAS**, COPD is considered to be the second leading cause of disability in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, while smoking is the primary risk factor for COPD, other risk factors include environmental and work place exposure to air pollution, second hand smoke, and a history of childhood respiratory infections and genetics; and

**WHEREAS**, early COPD screening and diagnosis is critical and a diagnostic test for COPD known as spirometry is available for office use, yet many people are not diagnosed until they have reached an advanced stage of the disease; and

**WHEREAS**, concerted public outreach efforts exist, such as a DRIVE4COPD, the nation's largest public awareness and screening campaign for COPD, and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute's COPD: Learn More Breathe Better Campaign, can dramatically improve public awareness of COPD; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no cure for COPD, but increased public awareness, early detection and proper health management can slow the progression of the disease and lead to reduced costs and improved quality of life and self-sufficiency for our residents, many of whom receive care through public programs which slows damage to their heart and lungs;

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

## *COPD 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 fifteenth day of October, 2013.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Sue Vagstad in blue ink.

Secretary of State