



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week (NMLPW) is a time of recognition for the approximately 300,000 medical laboratory professionals and 15,000 board-certified pathologists who play a vital role in every aspect of health care; and

**WHEREAS**, professionals who practice in the medical laboratory, including pathologists, medical technologists, medical laboratory technicians, phlebotomists, cytotechnologists, histotechnologists, are invaluable members of the patient's health care team; and

**WHEREAS**, these well-educated and highly-trained health professionals who perform and evaluate medical laboratory tests to detect, diagnose, monitor treatment, and help prevent diseases, save countless lives each day and laboratory test results comprise an estimated 70% of the patient's medical records; and

**WHEREAS**, with the public now demanding increased health care quality and professional accountability, organizations representing practitioners of this critical science have a responsibility to ensure that the public is well informed about clinical laboratory competency; and

**WHEREAS**, beyond meeting this public need, the celebration of NMLPW helps increase recognition for the profession as it improves the individual practitioner's sense of self-worth; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 12 billion laboratory tests are performed in the United States each year and 12,200 new laboratory professionals will be needed annually to meet the growing need of the world's population, while only 4,000 to 6,000 graduates will join the workforce each year; and

**WHEREAS**, laboratory medicine is an honorable profession, vital to sustaining a high standard of health care;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of April 20-26, 2014 as

## *Medical Laboratory Professionals 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 third day of February, 2014.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Joe Hargett in blue ink.

Secretary of State

