



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Esophageal Cancer kills one American every 36 minutes each and every day; and

**WHEREAS**, Esophageal Cancer is among the deadliest of cancers, with fewer than one in five patients surviving five years; and

**WHEREAS**, Esophageal Cancer has low survival rates due at least in part to the fact it is usually discovered at advanced stages when treatment outcomes are poorer; and

**WHEREAS**, Esophageal Cancer in the U.S. is most often commonly associated with persistent heartburn or gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), yet many who are at risk are unaware of the potential danger GERD can present when it occurs over several months or years; and

**WHEREAS**, Esophageal Cancer can be a silent killer with patients often unaware that the cough, hoarse voice, sore throat or chest pain they suffer can be signs of GERD and are reasons to seek further consultation from their health care professional to rule out esophageal cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, Esophageal Cancer can develop from GERD when fluids from the stomach splash up to create cellular change in the esophagus resulting in a precancerous condition known as Barrett's Esophagus which may lead up to a 125-fold increase in a patient's risk of developing Esophageal Cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, Esophageal Cancer can be prevented through early detection of its precursor, Barrett's Esophagus, which can be treated with new, curative outpatient techniques; and

**WHEREAS**, The Esophageal Cancer Action Network, ECAN, is working to improve public awareness of the link between Heartburn and Cancer and supports progress in early detection and treatment of Esophageal Cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, Esophageal Cancer awareness along with improvements in prevention, early detection and treatment strategies will enhance the health and well-being of all Americans;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of April, 2014 as

*Esophageal Cancer 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 thirteenth day of March, 2014.

*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*Joe Kergett*

Secretary of State