



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) is a leading inherited cause of death for infants and young children, and one in 40-60 Americans carry the gene that causes SMA; and

WHEREAS, SMA is a motor neuron disease which affects the voluntary muscles that are used for activities such as crawling, walking, head and neck control, and swallowing, and there is currently no treatment or cure for SMA, which is known to cause degeneration in voluntary muscle movement for those that survive with this disease; and

WHEREAS, Spinal Muscular Atrophy crosses all racial, ethnic and religious boundaries, and can strike anyone of any age or gender; and

WHEREAS, increased awareness of SMA will lead to expanded knowledge and increased support for both disease and research and for families affected by the disease, hopefully leading to a cure; and

WHEREAS, Families of Spinal Muscular Atrophy (FSMA) is a non-profit organization founded in 1984 which has funded and directed over \$55 million for leading SMA research programs, and its successful results and progress from Basic research to drug discovery programs to clinical trials provide real hope for families and patients; and

WHEREAS, FSMA and patient groups from around the nation have named August as National Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month in order to raise awareness and help promote research into this devastating disease;

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

*Spinal Muscular Atrophy
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-ninth day of July, 2014.

Bill Haslam

Governor

Joe Reger

Secretary of State