



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, includes emphysema, chronic bronchitis, and in some cases, asthma and severe bronchiectasis; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2008 COPD became the third leading cause of death in the US, 12 years earlier than predicted, and the only top 5 causes of death that is not declining; and

**WHEREAS**, COPD is a chronic and progressive disease that affects over 24 million persons nationwide, half of whom have not been properly diagnosed, and 70% of whom are under age 65; and

**WHEREAS**, in TENNESSEE, 9.2% percent of adults overall and 11.8% of women have been diagnosed with COPD; and

**WHEREAS**, COPD is considered to be the 2nd leading causes of disability in the US; and

**WHEREAS**, smoking is the primary risk factor for COPD, other risk factors include environmental and exposure to air pollution, second hand smoke, and genetics; and

**WHEREAS**, a genetic condition called Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency tends to cause individuals to develop COPD; and

**WHEREAS**, nationwide the cost of COPD in 2010 was \$49.9 billion including healthcare services, indirect costs through loss of productivity, and the deterioration of personal health; and

**WHEREAS**, concerted public outreach efforts such as a DRIVE4COPD, the nation's largest public awareness and screening campaign for COPD, and the NHLBI's "COPD: Learn More Breathe Better Campaign", can improve public awareness of COPD, and

**WHEREAS**, there is no cure for COPD, but increased awareness, early detection and proper health management can slow the progression of the disease and lead to reduced costs, improved quality of life and self-sufficiency for our residents;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of November, 2014 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 sixth day of October, 2014.

*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*Lee Vengor*

Secretary of State