



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) is the leading genetic killer of children under the age of two; and

**WHEREAS**, one in 40 Americans carry the gene that causes SMA, and SMA is known to cause degeneration in voluntary muscle movement for those that survive with the disease; and

**WHEREAS**, Spinal Muscular Atrophy can strike any age, race or gender; and

**WHEREAS**, a person of increased awareness of Spinal Muscular Atrophy may lead to increased knowledge, a person of increased support for both disease research and the families affected by the disease, potentially lead to a cure; and

**WHEREAS**, patient groups 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 August 2011 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 12th day of September, 2011.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Governor

Handwritten signature of the Secretary of State in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Secretary of State