



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is the third most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second most common cause of cancer deaths for men and women in the United States; and

WHEREAS, every 4 minutes, someone is diagnosed with colorectal cancer and every 10 minutes someone dies from colorectal cancer; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of colorectal cancer deaths can be prevented through proper screening and early detection; and

WHEREAS, only 40 percent of colorectal cancer patients have their cancers detected at an early stage; and

WHEREAS, the 5-year relative survival rate of individuals who have early stage colorectal cancer is 90 percent but is only 13 percent when diagnosed after it has spread to other organs; and

WHEREAS, if Americans, aged 50 years or older, all followed standard recommendations for colorectal cancer screening, the death rate from this disease could be substantially reduced, some scientists suggesting a 60-70 percent reduction for patients utilizing the colonoscopy procedure; and

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is often preventable, and is treatable and beatable in most cases, if diagnosed in its early stages through standard recommended cancer screening methods, such as colposcopy; and

WHEREAS, observing a Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month during the month of March would provide a special opportunity to offer education on the importance of early detection and screening;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of March, 2015 as

Colorectal 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 twenty-first day of January, 2015.

Bill Haslam

Governor

Joe Wargot

Secretary of State