



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, approximately 5 million people have developmental disabilities nationwide; and

WHEREAS, more than 102,000 adults and children in Tennessee have developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Tennesseans with and without disabilities live and work side by side in communities across Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, every person, regardless of ability, has valuable strengths, infinite capacity to learn and the potential to make important contributions to their local communities; and

WHEREAS, people with developmental disabilities in Tennessee share with the state's other six million residents the desire to achieve personal success through education, meaningful work and family and community ties; and

WHEREAS, families of people with developmental disabilities deserve our admiration and recognition for their caring commitment and ongoing support that are essential to an independent and productive life; and

WHEREAS, "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month" is an appropriate time to recognize Tennessee's public policy accomplishments concerning persons with disabilities and to also identify the improvements to public policy that are needed to fully include all of Tennessee's citizens with developmental disabilities;

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

Developmental Disabilities 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-eighth day of January, 2015.

Bill Haslam

Governor

Joe Hargett

Secretary of State