



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, sports and recreation account for a substantial number of unintentional injury visits to the emergency room and is a leading cause of presentation for injury among adolescents with an estimated 3.5 million children under age 14 and an additional 2 million high school students receiving medical treatment for a sports-related injury each year; and

WHEREAS, although approximately 50 million children and adolescents participate in some form of athletics each year in the United States, children are especially vulnerable as they go through growth spurts or exercise without adequate rest periods; and

WHEREAS, safety is a shared responsibility of parents, coaches, youth athletes, safety advocates, sports leagues, schools and healthcare professionals and cannot be delegated to any one group; and

WHEREAS, youth sports serves as a means to teach our children values and skills that will be of assistance to them throughout life physically, mentally and emotionally; and

WHEREAS, all invested parties should not only understand their individual roles and responsibilities in our community's efforts to raise the standards of youth sports programs but take steps where possible to enhance it; and

WHEREAS, adoption of evidence-based safety strategies may not only reduce the burden of injury and disability but will also allow children to develop sports-specific motor skills and knowledge and the opportunity for healthy competition in a safe and supportive environment; and

WHEREAS, the Program for Injury Prevention in Youth Sports (PIPYS) at Vanderbilt recognizes the need to inspire changes in youth sports in order to make the experience safe, positive and fun for everyone involved;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of July 13-19, 2015 as

Youth Sports Safety Week

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 second day of March, 2015.

Bill Haslam

Governor

Joe Kuyper

Secretary of State