



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, April marks the forty-seventh anniversary of the enactment of Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, also known as the Federal Fair Housing Act; and

**WHEREAS**, this law codifies that there shall be no discrimination in the acquisition, ownership, possession, or enjoyment of housing and guarantees for each citizen that critical, personal element of choice in the selection of their home; and

**WHEREAS**, this anniversary is an occasion for all citizens to rededicate themselves to participate in efforts to eliminate vestiges of housing discrimination wherever they exist; and

**WHEREAS**, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Tennessee Human Rights Commission are responsible for the enforcement of fair housing laws and provide leadership in the effort to assure that citizens may expect to live free of discriminatory conduct in Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, only with the cooperation, commitment, and support of all Tennesseans can barriers to fair housing and to other aspects of equality of opportunity for all be removed; and

**WHEREAS**, illegal barriers to equal opportunity in housing, no matter how subtle, diminish the rights of everyone; and

**WHEREAS**, fair housing is the policy of the State of Tennessee; and implementation of that policy requires providing for inclusive housing opportunities regardless of race, disability, color, religion, sex, creed, familial status, and national origin;

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

*Fair Housing 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 eleventh day of March, 2015.

*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*Julie Hight*

Secretary of State