



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, fibromyalgia is a chronic pain illness which affects about six million people in the United States (about 2 percent of the population); and

WHEREAS, family members of fibromyalgia patients may be at higher risk of developing fibromyalgia; and

WHEREAS, fibromyalgia may be very disabling; one study found that 25% of patients with fibromyalgia received disability payments; and

WHEREAS, fibromyalgia, a condition affecting the central nervous system, for which there is currently no cure, causes fatigue and debilitating pain in women, men, and children of all ethnicities, which can go undiagnosed; and

WHEREAS, patients with this illness often live with widespread body pain, extreme fatigue, sleep disorders, stiffness and weakness, headaches, numbness and tingling, impairment of memory and concentration; and

WHEREAS, patients with fibromyalgia often have a number of co-existing conditions which may include chronic myofascial pain, irritable bowel syndrome, temporomandibular disorder, migraine, environmental sensitivities, anxiety and depression; and

WHEREAS, increased awareness and expanded knowledge of the realities of life with fibromyalgia will allow the community at large to better support people who struggle with the challenges of this chronic pain disorder; and

WHEREAS, the National Fibromyalgia & Chronic Pain Association, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization; and Fibro Friends, along with other groups around our country, have joined together to advocate for fibromyalgia awareness, support, and a better future through research, diagnosis, education, and treatment;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim May 12, 2015, as

Fibromyalgia and Chronic Pain Awareness Day

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 ninth day of April, 2015.

Bill Haslam

Governor

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Secretary of State