



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Friedreich's Ataxia is an inherited disease that causes progressive damage to the nervous system, muscles, heart, and pancreas resulting in symptoms ranging from muscle weakness and speech problems to life-shortening heart disease; and

WHEREAS, symptoms usually begin between the ages of 5 and 15 years, but can also have late onset and occur anytime during adulthood; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no effective cure or treatment for Friedreich's Ataxia; and

WHEREAS, within one to two decades after diagnosis, most individuals with Friedreich's Ataxia lose the ability to walk unassisted, and in the later stages of the disease the person is usually completely incapacitated; and

WHEREAS, Friedreich's Ataxia is the most common inherited ataxia; and

WHEREAS, according to the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, Friedreich's Ataxia has a prevalence rate of 1 to 50,000 people; and

WHEREAS, raising awareness of Friedreich's Ataxia will lead to more research and understanding of this disease;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim May 16, 2015 as

Friedreich's Ataxia 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 twenty-seventh day of April, 2015.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Julie Viegut in blue ink.

Secretary of State

