



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Hydrocephalus, derived from the Greek words, "hydro" meaning water, and "cephalus" meaning head, is usually a treatable condition in which the primary characteristic is excessive accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid in the brain resulting in abnormal widening of spaces in the brain, creating harmful pressure on brain tissues that can be fatal if untreated; and

**WHEREAS**, there are two primary types of hydrocephalus: congenital hydrocephalus and acquired hydrocephalus with two forms that primarily affect adults: ex-vacuo, which occurs when stroke or traumatic injury cause brain damage; and normal pressure hydrocephalus, which is most common among the elderly, and often the cause is unknown; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of people who develop hydrocephalus or who are currently living with it is difficult to establish since there is no national registry of people with the condition; nevertheless, best estimates are that it impacts 0.5 to 0.8 of every 1000 live births; and

**WHEREAS**, treatment for hydrocephalus usually requires surgery to insert a shunt system, which diverts the flow of cerebrospinal fluid to another area of the body where it can be absorbed as part of the normal circulatory process; and

**WHEREAS**, affected individuals and their families should be aware that hydrocephalus poses risks to both cognitive and physical development and often require repeated surgeries over time;

**WHEREAS**, in 2009, the United States Congress passed a Resolution designating the month of September as National Hydrocephalus Awareness Month; and

**WHEREAS**, representatives from the Chattanooga, Tennessee community of the Hydrocephalus Association, the national Hydrocephalus Association and in conjunction with leaders from professional, community, and medical organizations and associations, are dedicated to increasing public awareness of hydrocephalus and the needs of families, resulting in better health for individuals in the State of Tennessee and throughout the nation;

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

## *Hydrocephalus 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 eleventh day of June, 2015.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Haslam".

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Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sue Vargo".

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Secretary of State

