



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, suicide is one of the most disruptive and tragic events a family and a community can experience, with more than 900 lives lost in Tennessee each year and an estimated 8-25 attempted suicides for each suicide death; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Tennessee Department of Health, suicide is the 10th-leading cause of all deaths in Tennessee and the second-leading cause of death among people from the age of 15 to 24; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee veterans, active-duty military personnel, and National Guardsmen face a disproportionate risk as compared to the general population of Tennessee, with more dying from suicide than combat; and

**WHEREAS**, public awareness of this terrifying problem is the key to preventing further suffering and loss of life; and the risk for human self-destruction can be reduced through awareness, education and treatment; and as the highest risk for suicide is among the survivors of those who died by suicide or those who have attempted suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee is a national leader in the effort to prevent suicide, being one of the first states to develop a suicide prevention and evaluation plan covering the lifespan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of Tennessee has appointed a Suicide Prevention Network Advisory Council to coordinate the implementation of the Tennessee Strategy for Suicide Prevention; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network is a grassroots collaboration of Tennesseans and organizations working to eliminate the stigma of suicide, educate the community about the warning signs of suicide, and ultimately reduce the rate of suicide in our state; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network is also committed to excellence in suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention,

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

## *Suicide Prevention 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 twenty-fifth day of August, 2015.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Sue Bergitt in blue ink.

Secretary of State