



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, recent student-related housing fires in South Dakota, Pennsylvania, Kentucky and other schools across the country have tragically cut short the lives of some of the youth of our Nation;

WHEREAS, since January 2000, at least 169 people, including students, parents, and children have died in campus-related fires;

WHEREAS, approximately 87 percent of these deaths have occurred in off-campus occupancies;

WHEREAS, a majority of the students across the Nation live in off-campus occupancies;

WHEREAS, a number of fatal fires have occurred in buildings where the fire safety systems have been compromised or disabled by the occupants;

WHEREAS, it is recognized that automatic fire alarm systems and smoke alarms provide the necessary early warning to occupants and the fire department of a fire so that appropriate action can be taken;

WHEREAS, it is recognized that automatic fire sprinkler systems are a highly effective method of controlling or extinguishing a fire in its early stages, protecting the lives of the building's occupants;

WHEREAS, many students are living in off-campus occupancies, Greek housing, and residence halls that are not adequately protected with automatic fire sprinkler systems and automatic fire alarm systems or adequate smoke alarms;

WHEREAS, it is recognized that fire safety education is an effective method of reducing the occurrence of fires and reducing the resulting loss of life and property damage;

WHEREAS, students are not routinely receiving effective fire safety education throughout their entire college career;

WHEREAS, it is vital to educate the future generation of our Nation about the importance of fire safety behavior so that these behaviors can help to ensure their safety during their college years and beyond; and

WHEREAS, by developing a generation of fire-safe adults, future loss of life from fires can be significantly reduced;

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

Campus Fire Safety 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-fourth day of August, 2015.

Bill Haslam

Governor

Joe Rye

Secretary of State