



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, "Myositis" is a general term describing inflammation of the muscle. Causes include a number of Idiopathic Inflammatory Myopathies, which are rare diseases and thought to be autoimmune in nature causing muscle weakness, inflammation, pain, skin rashes, lung disease, impairment in swallowing, and fatigue; and

WHEREAS, There is no cure for idiopathic inflammatory myopathies and only limited treatment options, which can have significant side effects, and

WHEREAS, Due to the rarity of these conditions, there is often a delay in diagnosis or misdiagnosis causing a delay in potentially effective treatments that may lead to permanent muscle loss; and

WHEREAS, Education for patients, caregivers, and healthcare providers is important to the overall health of patients; and

WHEREAS, idiopathic inflammatory myopathies can affect both children and adults of all ages with symptoms often developing slowly while often mimicking other less-rare diseases; and

WHEREAS, idiopathic inflammatory myopathies affect every aspect of patients' lives including emotional, physical, relationships, and financial, patients deserve emotional support, financial assistance, and understanding; and

WHEREAS, raising awareness and funding are important factors in advancing research and developing new, less-damaging treatments with the goal of a cure for idiopathic inflammatory myopathies;

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

Idiopathic Inflammatory Myopathy 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 tenth day of September, 2015.

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

Governor

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

Secretary of State

