



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Tennessee stand fully committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they provide safe, challenging, and engaging learning experiences that help children develop social, emotional, physical and academic skills; and

WHEREAS, afterschool programs also support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends; build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among youth, families and adults; and

WHEREAS, afterschool programs engage families, schools and community partners in advancing the welfare of our children; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee has provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children become successful adults; and

WHEREAS, "Lights On Afterschool", the national celebration of afterschool programs held this year on October 22, 2015, promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families and communities; and

WHEREAS, the United Ways of Tennessee has established the Tennessee Afterschool Network with a mission to support children, youth, families and communities by advocating and building capacity with a unified voice for sustainable investments in safe, healthy and nurturing afterschool experiences; and

WHEREAS, 19.4 million families report that they would enroll their child in an afterschool program if one were available; and

WHEREAS, these expanded learning opportunities help close the achievement gap and prepare young people to compete in the global economy;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim October 22, 2015 as

Lights On Afterschool 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 first day of October, 2015.

Bill Haslam

Governor

Joe Hargett

Secretary of State