



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, nationally and in Tennessee fraud and financial abuse are greatly underreported, and there is a great need to educate and raise awareness of this devastating crime;

**WHEREAS**, nationally and in Tennessee fraud and identity theft are some of the most costly crimes Americans face. In 2014, according to data collected by the Federal Trade Commission, there were more than 2.5 million fraud, identity theft, and other consumer complaints representing more than \$1.7 billion in reported losses from fraud. In Tennessee, 42,340 of those complaints represented more than \$23 million in reported losses from fraud;

**WHEREAS**, the Division of Consumer Affairs within the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance works tirelessly to educate consumers, to address and mediate consumer complaints of fraud, unfair and deceptive trade practices, and to work with the Attorney General's Office and other local, state and federal agencies, to help in the prosecution of fraud;

**WHEREAS**, in Tennessee, it is a crime for a caretaker to misuse government funds of an elderly or disabled adult;

**WHEREAS**, public awareness of this very costly problem is the key to preventing further exploitation/abuse and loss of money;

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Commission on Aging & Disability and the Adult Protective Services Program within the Tennessee Department of Human Services are responsible for awareness, prevention, investigation, and reporting of fraud and financial abuse crimes against elderly and disabled adults in Tennessee;

**WHEREAS**, the statewide Tennessee Vulnerable Adult Coalition, and the regional coalitions in South Central, East, Upper Cumberland, Middle, West and Northeast Tennessee are grassroots organizations working to eliminate the costly crimes of fraud and financial abuse, to educate vulnerable adults about prevention strategies, to identify suspicious activities, to raise awareness of the red flags of financial exploitation, to encourage reporting of such crimes as fraud and financial abuse, and ultimately to reduce the rates of fraud and financial abuse among vulnerable adults; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Departments of Human Services and Commerce and Insurance, along with the Tennessee Commission on Aging & Disability declare fraud and financial abuse a state priority;

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

*Fraud and Financial Exploitation  
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 seventh day of October, 2015.

A blue ink signature of Bill Haslam, Governor of Tennessee.

Governor

A blue ink signature of Julie Nagat, Secretary of State.

Secretary of State

