



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the most precious and valuable resource that Tennessee possesses is our citizens, and it is imperative that we dedicate ourselves, our energy and our resources to the well-being and protection of their health; and

WHEREAS, regrettably, each year thousands of men, women and children suffer from the disproportionate effects of health disparities; and

WHEREAS, some populations are also less likely to receive adequate healthcare - particularly prenatal and chronic disease care - without regard to their insurance status, education or ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, health disparities include issues of differential access to care, quality of life, total years of life, health status, and specific health outcomes deserving of focused attention and public policy and practice that affect these disparities; and

WHEREAS, health disparities are the consequence of complex factors including, but not limited to, poverty, discrimination and bias in healthcare delivery, patient healthcare preferences, and other personal choices; and

WHEREAS, health disparities have generated tremendous interest from scientists, government officials, medical providers and the faith-based community, each indicating the need for additional research, specific disparity elimination policies, and more focused attention on the relationships among behaviors and health; and

WHEREAS, despite the growing awareness of health disparities, many Tennesseans at risk for dying or suffering still do not receive nor have access to appropriate standards of care or health preventive measures to guard against premature death and morbidity; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Department of Health, the Division of Minority Health and Disparity Elimination, the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, and the Health Equity Commission, recognize it is very important for Tennesseans to be better informed about health disparities and ways to improve their health and increase longevity;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of April, 2012 as

MINORITY HEALTH 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 15th day of March, 2012.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Governor

Handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Secretary of State