



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is the fourth most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second most common cause of cancer deaths for men and women combined in the United States;

WHEREAS, every 4 minutes, someone is diagnosed with colorectal cancer and every 10 minutes someone dies from colorectal cancer;

WHEREAS, the vast majority of colorectal cancer deaths can be prevented through proper screening and early detection;

WHEREAS, only 39 percent of colorectal cancer patients have their cancers detected at an early stage;

WHEREAS, the 5-year relative survival rate of individuals who have early stage colorectal cancer is 90 percent but is only 13 percent when diagnosed after it has spread to other organs;

WHEREAS, the national goal established by the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable is that 80 percent of Americans ages 50 and older will follow national colorectal cancer screening guidelines by the year 2018;

WHEREAS, if the majority of people in the United States age 50 or older were screened regularly for colorectal cancer using colonoscopy, the death rate from certain types of this disease could plummet by up to 70 percent;

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is preventable, treatable, and beatable in most cases when caught early during disease progression; and

WHEREAS, observing Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month during the month of March provides a special opportunity to offer education on the importance of early detection and screening;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of March, 2016 as

Colorectal Cancer 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 eighth day of December, 2015.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Joe Hargett in blue ink.

Secretary of State

