



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the United States Surgeon General has said that smoking remains the single most preventable cause of premature death in our society; and

WHEREAS, each year smoking accounts for 430,000 premature deaths in the United States including the deaths of 11,400 Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, 5.6 million people under age 18 alive today will ultimately die from smoking unless smoking rates decline, with 125,000 of those deaths among Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, smoking-related illnesses account for 20 percent of all sick days taken by workers nationwide; and

WHEREAS, quitting smoking greatly reduces the risk of developing smoking-related diseases; and

WHEREAS, "It's Quittin' Time in Tennessee" is a campaign to promote the importance of and resources for quitting smoking in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, dedicating a week to promote smoking cessation will encourage tobacco users to call the Tennessee Tobacco QuitLine and make a quit plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim February 22-26, 2016 as

Tennessee Quit Week

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 twenty-eighth day of January, 2016.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Joe Hargett in blue ink.

Secretary of State

