



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, syringomyelia, often referred to as SM, is a chronic disorder involving the spinal cord; and

**WHEREAS**, this condition occurs when cerebrospinal fluid, normally found outside of the spinal cord and brain, enters the interior of the spinal cord, forming a cavity known as a syrinx; and

**WHEREAS**, many individuals suffer from severe and debilitating symptoms including chronic pain, headaches, and paralysis; and

**WHEREAS**, the need for widespread awareness and understanding for syringomyelia is critical for meaningful research to continue so that we may improve the quality of life for those diagnosed and look towards a cure; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Syringomyelia & Chiari Alliance Project, Inc., the oldest non-profit organization providing support for individuals facing chiari and syringomyelia, will celebrate May as the official month for Syringomyelia Awareness;

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

*Syringomyelia 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 twenty-eighth day of January, 2016.



*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*Joe Vargo*

Secretary of State