



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, crime victims who fail to receive supportive services are at greater risk for long-term consequences of crime; and

**WHEREAS**, the victim services community has worked for decades to create an environment for victims that is safe, supportive, and effective; and

**WHEREAS**, intervening early with services that support and empower victims provides a pathway to recovery from crime and abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, honoring the rights of victims, including the right to be heard and to be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect, as well as working to meet their needs, rebuilds their trust in the criminal justice and social service systems; and

**WHEREAS**, serving victims and rebuilding their trust restores hope to victims and survivors, as well as their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 10-16, 2016, is an opportune time to commit to ensuring that all victims of crime—even those who are challenging to reach or serve—are offered accessible and appropriate services in the aftermath of crime;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of April 10-16, 2016, as

*Crime Victims' Rights Week*

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-sixth day of February, 2016.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Haslam".

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Ragan".

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Secretary of State

