



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, fibromyalgia, a condition affecting the central nervous system, for which there is currently no cure, causes fatigue and debilitating pain in women, men, and children of all ethnicities, which can go undiagnosed; and

**WHEREAS**, fibromyalgia is a chronic pain illness which affects as many as six million people in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, family members of fibromyalgia patients may be at higher risk of developing fibromyalgia; and

**WHEREAS**, this condition may be very disabling and many patients with fibromyalgia utilize disability benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, patients with this illness often live with widespread body pain, extreme fatigue, sleep disorders, stiffness and weakness, headaches, numbness and tingling, impairment of memory and concentration; and

**WHEREAS**, patients with fibromyalgia often have a number of co-existing conditions which may include chronic myofascial pain, irritable bowel syndrome, temporomandibular disorder, migraine, environmental sensitivities, anxiety and depression; and

**WHEREAS**, increased awareness and expanded knowledge of the realities of life with fibromyalgia will allow the community at large to better support people who struggle with the challenges of this chronic pain disorder; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Fibromyalgia & Chronic Pain Association, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization; and Fibro Friends, along with other groups around our country, have joined together to advocate for fibromyalgia awareness, support, and a better future through research, diagnosis, education, and treatment;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim May 12, 2016, as

*Fibromyalgia and Chronic Pain Awareness Day*

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 eighteenth day of February, 2016.

*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*Joe Vogel*

Secretary of State