



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Healthcare Decisions Day is designed to raise public awareness of the need to plan ahead for health care decisions, related to end of life care and medical decision-making whenever patients are unable to speak for themselves and to encourage the specific use of advance directives to communicate these important health care decisions; and

WHEREAS, in Tennessee, the Health Care Decisions Act provides the specifics of our advance directives law and offers a model form for Tennesseans use; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that only about 27 percent of Americans have completed an advance directive; and

WHEREAS, it is likely that a significant reason for these low percentages is that there is both a lack of knowledge and considerable confusion in the public about Advance Directives; and

WHEREAS, one of the principal goals of Healthcare Decisions Day is to encourage hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, continuing care retirement communities, and hospices to participate in a State-wide effort to provide clear and consistent information to the public about advance directives, as well as to encourage medical professionals and lawyers to volunteer their time and efforts to improve public knowledge and increase the number of Tennessee citizens with advance directives; and

WHEREAS, the Honoring Choices® Tennessee, a statewide coalition of state agencies, private industry, healthcare associations and other organizations throughout Tennessee have endorsed this event and are committed to educating the public about the importance of discussing health care choices and executing advance directives; and

WHEREAS, as a result of April 16, 2018, being recognized as Healthcare Decisions Day in Tennessee, we hope that more citizens will have conversations about their health care decisions; more citizens will complete an Advance Directives to make their wishes known; and fewer families and health care providers will have to struggle with making difficult health care decisions in the absence of guidance from the patient;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim April 16, 2018 as

Healthcare Decisions 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 twenty-sixth day of March, 2018.

Bill Haslam

Governor

Heidi Kuyper

Secretary of State

