



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, the state of Tennessee seeks to protect and improve the health of all citizens by preventing disease, promoting good health, and assuring access to quality healthcare; and

**WHEREAS**, antibiotic resistance has become one of the key threats to health in the United States, threatening the ability of healthcare providers to fight infectious diseases; and

**WHEREAS**, antibiotic-resistant infections are more likely to produce adverse health outcomes and are more costly to treat than susceptible infections; and

**WHEREAS**, more than two million people become ill each year with antibiotic-resistant infections and at least 23,000 die as a result; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest antibiotic prescribing rates in the country; and

**WHEREAS**, antibiotic resistance is caused by the overuse and misuse of antibiotics in general and the overuse of selected agents in particular; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed recommendations for healthcare professionals regarding best practices for the judicious use of antibiotics as well as educational materials for the general public; and

**WHEREAS**, public health addresses disease prevention and health risk reduction through the exchange of information and by supporting the health needs of the citizens of Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, education and appropriate use of antibiotics is the primary solution to address the threat of antibiotic resistance; and

**WHEREAS**, Get Smart About Antibiotics Week and the Get Smart Program provides an opportunity to highlight the messages of the Tennessee Department of Health and CDC to promote the judicious use of antibiotics by consumers and healthcare professionals;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of November 16-22, 2015 as

*Get Smart About Antibiotics 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 second day of October, 2015.

*Bill Haslam*

Governor

*Joe Vogel*

Secretary of State