



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, pain is one of our nation's most serious health problems, with African Americans being affected more often and treated less effectively and less often; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 75 million American's live with chronic pain caused by various diseases or disorders, with nearly 25 million Americans suffering with acute pain during the course of each year; and

**WHEREAS**, existing medical knowledge and technology can relieve pain, most pain is untreated or improperly treated, leaving most pain sufferers with little or no relief; and

**WHEREAS**, chronic pain sufferers are often stigmatized, marginalized, or not informed about their right to effective pain assessment and management; and

**WHEREAS**, more and more physicians, nurses, pain sufferers, social workers, pharmacists, volunteer health organizations therapists, civic leaders, health care businesses and other are increasingly collaborating to improve the quality of life for people experiencing pain; and

**WHEREAS**, the common goals of this movement are to provide practical information to people with pain, assist health care professionals in learning and using the most modern and effective modalities of pain management, and serve as advocates for people experiencing pain,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Phil Bredesen, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of September, 2004, as

## **PAIN 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 6th day of August, 2004.

Governor

  
Secretary of State