



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, Congress enacted the Earned Income Tax Credit in 1975 to offset the burden of Social Security taxes on low-income taxpayers, supplement wages and make employment more attractive than welfare; and

WHEREAS, since its enactment in 1975, the Earned Income Tax Credit has lifted millions of families above the poverty line and has had a high participation rate relative to other programs for low-income Americans; and

WHEREAS, each year, millions of Americans and thousands of Tennesseans who work are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), but do not realize they qualify or know how to claim it; and

WHEREAS, nearly 608,000 Tennesseans receive more than \$1.28 billion in federal Earned Income Tax Credit in 2009, the IRS estimates that to be only 75 to 80 percent of those eligible to receive the credit; and

WHEREAS, the IRS and other organizations, such as the Tennessee Department of Human Services, Tennessee Alliance for Financial Independence, local United Ways, and Urban Leagues, collaborate with local agencies to offer volunteer income tax assistance to raise awareness of the Earned Income Tax Credit; and

WHEREAS, the IRS and its partners provide tools to communities, and link financial education and other asset building efforts such as low-cost savings accounts and individual development accounts; and

WHEREAS, the Earned Income Tax Credit increases revenues in communities across Tennessee and boosts the overall economy;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phil Bredesen, Governor of the State of Tennessee, in recognition thereof, do hereby proclaim the 29th of January, 2010 as

TENNESSEE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT AWARENESS DAY

and urge all citizens to recognize the benefits of the Earned Income Tax Credit and claim the credit if they are eligible.



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 21st day of December, 2009.

Governor

Secretary of State