

# Tennessee Together: Governor's Welcome

HON. WILLIAM E. HASLAM\*†

Good morning everyone, I'm Governor Bill Haslam. Thank you for being here today for this symposium. You are going to hear presentations from medical, legal, and policy experts from all across the Volunteer State and the country.

The United States comprises approximately 5% of the world's population, but we use 80% of the world's opioids. In Tennessee, we write 7.6 million prescriptions a year, and there are only 6.6 million of us. These are staggering statistics that we must work to change. We have announced "Tennessee Together,"<sup>1</sup> a comprehensive plan to end the opioid crisis that focuses on prevention, treatment, and law enforcement. This is a crisis that knows no boundaries and impacts individuals and families regardless of race, income, gender, or age.

Thank you to everyone who made the journey to this event at the University of Memphis. Thank you to the editors and staff at *The University of Memphis Law Review*. Through a multi-faceted approach, Tennessee can succeed in its fight against the opioid epidemic and reverse the addiction, overdose, and illicit distribution

---

\* Forty-ninth Governor of Tennessee, 2011–present; Mayor of Knoxville, Tennessee, 2003–2011. Board Member, Harold's Stores, Inc., 2001–2003; Chief Executive Officer, E-Commerce and Catalog Division, Saks Fifth Avenue, 1999–2001; President, Pilot Corporation, 1995–1999. Bachelor of Arts, Emory University, 1980.

† *Editor's Note:* This is a lightly edited transcript of Governor Haslam's welcoming remarks to the symposium event at the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law on March 16, 2018. Governor Haslam delivered his address in a pre-recorded video. Memphis Law Review, *Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam Addresses 2018 Memphis Law Review Symposium*, YOUTUBE (Mar. 21, 2018), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5O1LRDVBbeg>.

1. See generally *About TN Together*, STATE OF TENN., <https://www.tn.gov/opioids/about-tn-together.html> (last visited Dec. 1, 2018).

trends that plague our state and nation. Working together, we can end this crisis.