



**BILL HASLAM**  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF TENNESSEE

April 7, 2014

Dear Members of the Capitol Hill Press Corps:

In response to your letter dated April 4 expressing concerns about the Governor's public schedule, we would first like to point out that in the 14 weeks - or 68 business days - that have passed so far in 2014, the Governor has been available to media in Tennessee 32 of those days, not including a half dozen or so public events that were covered by Tennessee reporters outside of the state. He specifically has been available in Middle Tennessee, convenient for you to cover and attend, at least 16 times.

As someone who has worked in the communications office for two different Tennessee governors, I can assure you that I am intimately aware of the history of the public schedule and what goes into putting it together.

Our approach to the public schedule has not changed over the past three years. We strive to ensure that you have access to the Governor on a regular basis. We also work with the groups and organizations that invite him to speak and follow their lead on whether they intend to invite media and have an open event.

What is most perplexing is that in several of the events you name in your letter, he specifically made a point to be available to you. For example, the American Heart Association's Tennessee Legislative Walking Challenge was the General Assembly's event, which the Governor wasn't entirely sure he was going to be able to attend. We deferred to them on publicizing the event, which it is our understanding they did. Because the Governor was ultimately able to attend the event but unable to stay for the duration, we intentionally scheduled time for media on the front end, walked down to your office to tell you his plans, and made sure he was there before the event started.

Please be assured that the Governor's communications office understands the responsibility of our role in helping you to do your jobs. If you have any questions or need further information, feel free to give me a call at (615) 253-7746.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alexia Poe".

Alexia Poe  
Director of Communications