

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Autism, the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States, affects more than three million people nationwide and one in sixty five Arkansas children; and

WHEREAS: Autism is the result of a neurological disorder that can affect anyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic background; and

WHEREAS: Symptoms and characteristics of autism may present themselves in a variety of combinations and can result in significant lifelong impairment of an individual's ability to learn, develop healthy interactive behaviors, and understand verbal as well as nonverbal communication; and

WHEREAS: The effort to address autism continues - doctors, therapists, and educators can help individuals with autism overcome or adjust to its challenges and provide early, accurate diagnosis and the resulting appropriate education, intervention, and therapy that are vital to future growth and development; and

WHEREAS: It is imperative to ensure that persons living with autism have access to the support and services needed to pursue the full measure of personal happiness and to achieve their greatest potential; and

WHEREAS: The State of Arkansas is honored to take part in the annual observance of Autism Awareness Month and World Autism Awareness Day in the hope that it will lead to a better understanding of the disorder;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim April 2017, as

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

and April 2nd, 2017 as

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY IN ARKANSAS

across the State, and I encourage all Arkansans to work together to raise awareness of autism and the myriad issues surrounding autism, as well as to increase knowledge of the programs that have been and are being developed to support individuals with autism and their families.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 2nd day of March, in the year of our Lord 2017.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State