

# STATE OF ARKANSAS

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

### PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Arkansas is home to more than 700,000 children, who enrich our lives daily and represent the future of our state; and

WHEREAS: There were more than 35,000 reports of child maltreatment in Arkansas last year, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, sexual exploitation, or abandonment, and 10,000 cases were found to be true; and

WHEREAS: Child maltreatment is associated with delays in cognitive, social, and emotional development leading to poorer psychological and physical health in later years; and

WHEREAS: Every child in Arkansas should have an equal opportunity to be physically and psychologically safe, enjoy the benefits that our state has to offer, and develop into healthy, happy, productive adults who are able to contribute to the well-being of society; and

WHEREAS: It is the responsibility of every parent, grandparent, or other caregiver, educator, therapist, advocate, trainer, community leader, church member, after-school helper or anyone guiding, supporting, helping, or reaching out to any child, to be aware of the warning signs of child abuse and neglect, including sudden changes in behavior or school performance, untreated physical injuries or other medical problems, lack of adult supervision, or symptoms of fearfulness, sadness, or both, so that they may take the necessary steps to protect that child; and

WHEREAS: Our state flourishes when we work together for the greater good and will be stronger when every child can pursue their current and future dreams in a safe and loving environment;

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

#### CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to join me in recognizing the gravity of abuse facing our children and work to identify and promote effective treatments for current victims and strategies to prevent future incidents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March, in the year of our Lord 2017.



  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor

  
Mark Martin, Secretary Of State