

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH) is a birth defect in which the diaphragm fails to fully form, allowing abdominal organs into the chest cavity and preventing lung growth; and

WHEREAS: One in every 2,500 pregnancies are diagnosed with a congenital diaphragmatic hernia; and

WHEREAS: Since 2000, it is estimated that over 500,000 babies have been born with CDH; however, only 50 percent of those babies survived; and

WHEREAS: CDH is as common as spina bifida and cystic fibrosis; however, very few people know about it or are aware of it; and

WHEREAS: 1,600 babies are born with CDH every year in the United States; and

WHEREAS: There are many people living in Arkansas who have been diagnosed with and have survived their CDH. Many other families in Arkansas have endured the horrible pain and grief associated with the loss of loved ones with CDH; and

WHEREAS: Those with CDH often endure multiple surgeries and possible medical complication beyond their diagnosis that include heart defects, pulmonary complications, gastric and intestinal problems, developmental delays, and may require respiratory and medicinal support for years; and

WHEREAS: Raising awareness of this congenital defect will help bring about acceptance and support for those suffering with it and will help advocate for urgently-needed medical research and advances;

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

CONGENITAL DIAPHRAGMATIC HERNIA AWARENESS MONTH

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, in the year of our Lord 2017.



  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor



Mark Martin, Secretary Of State