

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

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Nurse Practitioners (NPs) are advanced practice nurses who provide high-quality healthcare services similar to those of a physician. There are more than 150,000 licensed NPs in the United States, with nearly 2,200 in Arkansas, providing expert, cost-effective, patient-centered personalized health care; and

WHEREAS: NPs earn post-graduate degrees and most possess master's degrees and/or doctorates, along with clinical training beyond their initial registered-nurse preparation. All NPs must be nationally certified; and

WHEREAS: NPs order, perform and interpret diagnostic tests, diagnose and treat acute and chronic conditions, and prescribe medications and other treatments; and

WHEREAS: In addition to providing clinical services, NPs strive to be partners in the healthcare of their patients by focusing on health promotion, disease prevention, patient health education/counseling, and encouraging patients to make smarter health and lifestyle choices; and

WHEREAS: For more than half a century, NPs have provided health care to people of all ages and in diverse health care settings, including private office practices, federally qualified health clinics, hospitals, long term and managed care facilities, schools, state and local health departments, and retail-based clinics; and

WHEREAS: More than 20 percent of NPs practice in rural settings with populations of less than 25,000, and it is well-documented that patients of NPs are given more personal time and attention than they traditionally receive from other healthcare providers; and

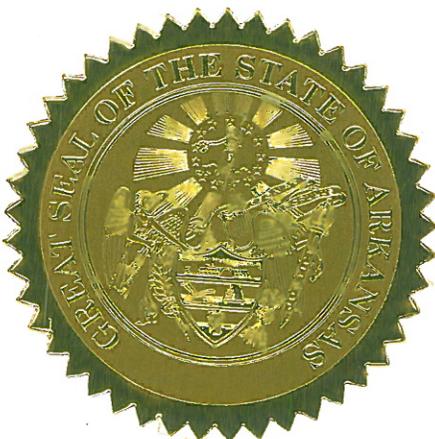
WHEREAS: NPs have been successfully caring for the citizens of Arkansas through judicial, safe prescribing habits for 20 years, celebrate this month of February 2015;

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 February 2015, as

APN PRACTICE ACT'S 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
NURSES DAY 2015

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to recognize the many contributions nurse practitioners make to the health and well-being of the people in the communities they serve in Arkansas and in the Nation.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, in the year of our Lord 2015.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "ASA Hutchinson", written over a horizontal line.

ASA HUTCHINSON, GOVERNOR

Attest:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Martin", written over a horizontal line.

MARK MARTIN, SECRETARY OF STATE