

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 affecting more than three million people is an urgent public health crisis that demands a national response; 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 persons 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, do hereby proclaim April 2015, as

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

and April 2, 2015, 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 ____ day of March, in the year of our Lord 2015.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:


Mark Martin, Secretary Of State