

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Schizencephaly is an extremely rare congenital disorder characterized by a full-thickness cleft within the cerebral hemispheres. Large portions of the cerebral hemispheres may be absent and replaced by cerebrospinal fluid. Two types of Schizencephaly have been described, depending on the size of the area involved and the separation of the cleft lips; and

WHEREAS: Schizencephaly is listed as a rare disease by the Office of Rare Diseases (ORD) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This means that Schizencephaly, or a subtype of Schizencephaly, affects less than 200,000 people in the U.S. population; and

WHEREAS: Babies with clefts in both hemispheres (called bilateral clefts) commonly have developmental delays and delays in speech and language skills as well as problems with brain-spinal-cord communication. Individuals with clefts in only one hemisphere (called unilateral clefts) are often paralyzed on one side of the body, but may have average to near-average intelligence; and

WHEREAS: An individual with Schizencephaly may also have an abnormally small head, mental retardation, partial or complete paralysis, or poor muscle tone. Most will experience seizures and some may have an excessive accumulation of fluid in the brain called hydrocephalus; and

WHEREAS: The prognosis of Schizencephaly is catastrophic, but depends essentially on the size of the clefts and the extent of neurological disabilities and the presence of associated lesions. Patients with open-lip Schizencephaly usually die at an earlier age than patient with the closed-lip form; and

WHEREAS: The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) conducts and supports a wide range of studies that explore the mechanisms of normal brain development. The knowledge gained from these fundamental studies provides the foundation for understanding the best ways to prevent or treat developmental brain defects such as Schizencephaly;

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 May 10, 2015, as

SCHIZENCEPHALY AWARENESS DAY IN ARKANSAS

across the State, and I urge all citizens to join me in raising awareness of this rare disease.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 24th day of April, in the year of our Lord 2015.



Asa Hutchinson
Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Mark Martin
Mark Martin, Secretary Of State