

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

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Gastroschisis is a birth defect that causes the intestines to protrude from the abdomen; and

WHEREAS: Many Americans living with Gastroschisis have serious and debilitating conditions that have a significant impact on their lives; including, but not limited to the following: failure to grow, Short Bowel Syndrome, multiple organ transplants and long-term feeding issues; and

WHEREAS: Individuals and families affected by Gastroschisis often experience problems such as a sense of isolation, difficulty in obtaining an accurate and timely diagnosis, few treatment options and problems related to accessing or being reimbursed for treatment; and

WHEREAS: The cause for Gastroschisis is relatively unknown, and patients and their families must bear a large share of the burden for raising funds for research and for bringing about awareness of this difficult condition; and

WHEREAS: Approximately one in 2,229 individuals are born with Gastroschisis in the United States and hundreds of Arkansans are among those affected by this birth defect; and

WHEREAS: Avery's Angels Gastroschisis Foundation (AAGF), a nonprofit organization based out of North Carolina, was formed in memory of the founder's son Avery John Rauen, who died from this birth defect;

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 July 30, 2015, as

**GASTROSCHISIS AWARENESS DAY**

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to become more aware of Gastroschisis and the families affected by this condition.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May, in the year of our Lord 2015.



Attest:

*Mark Martin*

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State

*Asa Hutchinson*  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor