

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Atrial fibrillation (AFib), an irregular and often rapid heart rate that commonly causes poor blood flow to the body, is the most common of serious heart rhythm disorders, causing 15 percent of all strokes in the United States; and

WHEREAS: AFib affects more than 2.3 million Americans and is expected to more than double to 5.6 million Americans by 2050; and

WHEREAS: Symptoms of Afib often include heart palpitations, shortness of breath, and weakness, with one-in-four people aged 40 years or older expected to develop AFib during their lifetime; and

WHEREAS: AFib causes the heart to beat chaotically and out of rhythm, resulting in people with AFib being nearly five time more likely to have a stroke than someone without the condition; and

WHEREAS: AFib-related strokes are about twice as likely to be fatal and severely disabling than strokes not related to AFib; and

WHEREAS: Three-out-of-four AFib-related strokes can be prevented, although many patients are not aware of their risks and do not take actions to avert stroke, including medications and other interventions; and

WHEREAS: The estimated direct medical cost of stroke is \$36.5 billion annually, including the cost of healthcare services, medications and lost productivity; and

WHEREAS: Appropriate stroke prevention in AFib can effectively reduce the overall financial burden of the illness within public programs such as Medicaid and Medicare; and

WHEREAS: Reducing the risk of a stroke related to AFib may allow self-sufficiency on the part of patients cared for within public programs;

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 September 2015, as

ATRIAL FIBRILLATION AWARENESS MONTH

across the State, and I encourage all citizens to become more aware of the connection between AFib and stroke.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 25th day of August, in the year of our Lord 2015.



Asa Hutchinson

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Mark Martin
Mark Martin, Secretary Of State