

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

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Severe mental illnesses, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, severe anxiety disorder, borderline personality disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder, affect one-in-five families annually; and

WHEREAS: The incidence of severe mental illness is more common than that of cancer, diabetes, and heart disease and is the most common reason for hospital admissions nationwide; and

WHEREAS: Severe mental illnesses have been scientifically proven to be highly treatable disorders of the brain; and

WHEREAS: Without treatment, many children and young people suffering from mental disorders may have to endure their illnesses into adulthood, leading to problems in all areas of their adult lives. Those with untreated mental disorders are at high risk for many difficulties, including alcohol or drug abuse and violent or self-destructive behavior, and even suicide; and

WHEREAS: Scientific research is producing tremendous breakthroughs in the understand of the causes of severe mental illnesses, resulting in more effective treatments that allow an improved quality of life and significant reduction of symptoms; and

WHEREAS: While mental-health disorders can affect persons of any age, race, religion, or income, they continue to be shrouded in stigma and social prejudice; and

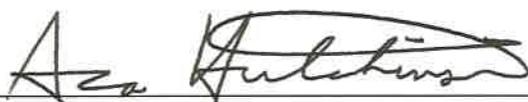
WHEREAS: There is a deep, unmet need in our communities to educate and support children and families affected by mental illness and its impact. Everyone has a role to play in helping these families achieve a better quality of life;

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 October 4<sup>th</sup> through October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015, as

**MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK**

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September, in the year of our Lord 2015.



  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor

  
Mark Martin, Secretary Of State