

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

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Plasma is the clear, straw-colored liquid portion of blood that holds red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets, and other cellular components in suspension. It makes up about 55 percent of the body's blood volume, the single largest component of human blood, and contains water, salts, enzymes, antibodies, and other proteins; and

WHEREAS: Lifesaving plasma-derived and recombinant blood clotting factors, collectively known as plasma protein therapies, are unique, biologic products for which no substitute therapies exist; and

WHEREAS: Plasma protein therapies are used to treat many conditions, including bleeding disorders, primary immunodeficiency diseases, Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, and certain rare neurological disorders. These therapies are also utilized in emergency and surgical medicine to save and improve lives; and

WHEREAS: These therapies have significantly enhanced the quality of life for patients, markedly benefited patient outcomes, and extended life expectancy for individuals with rare diseases, specifically those with plasma protein disorders; and

WHEREAS: There are eight plasma donation centers in Arkansas that are certified under the International Quality Plasma Program where healthy and committed donors provide plasma that is used to manufacture high-impact, life-saving therapies; and

WHEREAS: October 11<sup>th</sup> through October 17<sup>th</sup> marks International Plasma Awareness Week with observances throughout the United States and Europe designed to raise global awareness of the need for source plasma collection, to recognize the contributions of plasma donors in saving and bettering lives, and to increase understanding about lifesaving plasma protein therapies and rare diseases;

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 11 through 17, 2015, as

**INTERNATIONAL PLASMA AWARENESS WEEK IN ARKANSAS**

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to join me in recognizing the importance of plasma protein therapies and of plasma donations.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of September, in the year of our Lord 2015.



*Asa Hutchinson*

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

*Mark Martin*

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State