

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: There are nearly 7,000 diseases and conditions considered rare (each affecting fewer than 200,000 Americans) in the United States; and

WHEREAS: While each of these diseases may affect small numbers of people, rare diseases as a group affect almost 30 million Americans; and

WHEREAS: Many rare diseases are serious and debilitating conditions that have a significant impact on the lives of those affected; and

WHEREAS: While approximately 450 drugs and biologics have been approved for the treatment of rare diseases according to the Food and Drug Administration, millions of Americans still have rare diseases for which there is no approved treatment; and

WHEREAS: Individuals and families affected by rare diseases often experience problems such as diagnosis delay, difficulty finding a medical expert and lack of access to treatments or ancillary services; and

WHEREAS: While the public is familiar with some rare diseases such as “Lou Gehrig’s disease” and sympathetic to those affected, many patients and families affected by less widely known rare diseases bear a large share of the burden of funding research and raising public awareness to support the search for treatments; and

WHEREAS: Thousands of residents of Arkansas are among those affected by rare diseases since nearly one in 10 Americans have rare diseases; and

WHEREAS: The National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) is organizing a nationwide observance of Rare Disease Day on the February 29, 2016; and

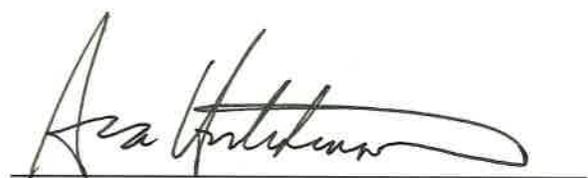
WHEREAS: Thousands of patients and caregivers, medical professionals, researchers, companies developing orphan products to treat people with rare diseases and others in the State of Arkansas will participate in that observance;

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 February 29, 2016, as

RARE DISEASE DAY IN ARKANSAS

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 27th day of January, in the year of our Lord 2016.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor


Mark Martin, Secretary Of State