

# STATE OF ARKANSAS

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

### PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Cigarette smoking is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. Statistics show that there are approximately 260,000 young people in the United States who have become regular smokers, and as many as one-third of them will die prematurely because of their addiction; and

WHEREAS: In Arkansas, 69,000 youths, now under 18, will ultimately die prematurely from smoking; and

WHEREAS: Exposure to second-hand smoke has been estimated to result in at least 480,000 deaths in our Nation each year and to cause illnesses in more than one-million children, while carcinogens and toxins found to exist in third-hand smoke, which lingers in the clothing and hair of smokers, and in the air, carpets, and upholstery where smokers have been, are health hazards to infants and children; and

WHEREAS: Smoking kills more people than alcohol, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murders, and suicides combined – and thousands more die from other tobacco-related causes; and

WHEREAS: Tobacco use is a serious problem, and therefore, educating our youth is vital to reducing the number of young people involved in the usage of tobacco products; and

WHEREAS: Since 2003, the Tobacco Control Youth Board, the Youth Extinguishing Smoking (Y.E.S.) Team, and all of its many grass-roots, youth-coalition partners throughout the State, have participated actively in their communities and at the State Capitol on a day set aside for events and festivities that educate their peers about the dangers of tobacco use; and

WHEREAS: On March 16, 2016, Y.E.S. will launch the annual “Arkansas Tobacco-Free Kids Day” to promote youth advocacy, leadership, and activism in fighting smoking;

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 March 16, 2016, as

#### ARKANSAS TOBACCO-FREE KIDS DAY

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to join me in supporting these outstanding young people for their determination and their contributions to promoting tobacco education and control.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March, in the year of our Lord 2016.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State