

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Arkansas is home to more than 700,000 children, who enrich our lives daily and represent the future of our state; and

WHEREAS: There were more than 33,000 reports of child maltreatment in Arkansas last year, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, sexual exploitation, or abandonment, and 9,500 cases were found to be true; and

WHEREAS: Child maltreatment is associated with delays in cognitive, social, and emotional development leading to poorer psychological and physical health in later years; and

WHEREAS: Every child in Arkansas should have an equal opportunity to be physically and psychologically safe, enjoy the benefits that our state has to offer and develop into healthy, happy, productive adults who are able to contribute to the well-being of society; and

WHEREAS: It is the responsibility of every parent, grandparent, or other caregiver, educator, therapist, advocate, trainer, community leader, church member, after-school helper or anyone guiding, supporting, helping, or reaching out to any child, to be aware of the warning signs of child abuse and neglect, including sudden changes in behavior or school performance, untreated physical injuries or other medical problems, lack of adult supervision, or symptoms of fearfulness, sadness or both, so that they may take the necessary steps to protect that child; and

WHEREAS: Our state flourishes when we work together for the greater good and will be stronger when every child can pursue their current and future dreams in a safe and loving environment;

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 April 2016, as

CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

across the State of Arkansas, and I urge all Arkansas citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, and businesses to increase their participation in supporting families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening our community.

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




Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:


Mark Martin, Secretary Of State