

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: A congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH) comes about when the diaphragm of a fetus does not fully develop, thereby allowing abdominal organs to push into the chest cavity, preventing normal lung development; and

WHEREAS: A CDH occurs in approximately one in 2,500 live births in the United States and is often a life-threatening birth defect, because it limits the growth and development of the lungs; and

WHEREAS: CDH is as common as spina bifida and cystic fibrosis; however, very few people are aware of it. Each year, 1,600 infants are born with CDH in the United States; and

WHEREAS: There are many Arkansans who have been diagnosed with, and have survived, CDH; although many families in Arkansas have endured the pain and grief associated with the loss of loved ones to CDH; and

WHEREAS: Those with CDH often endure multiple surgeries and possible medical complication beyond their diagnosis that include heart defects, pulmonary complications, gastric and intestinal problems, developmental delays, and may require respiratory and medicinal support for years; and

WHEREAS: Raising awareness of this congenital defect will help bring about acceptance and support for those suffering with it and will help advocate for urgently needed medical research and advances;

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 19, 2016, as

CONGENITAL DIAPHRAGMATIC HERNIA AWARENESS DAY

across the State of Arkansas, and I urge our citizens to learn more about congenital diaphragmatic hernias and to offer caring support for those whose children are born with this complex health condition.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 30th day of December in the year of our Lord 2015.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor


Mark Martin, Secretary Of State