STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Gastroschisis is a birth defect that causes the intestines to protrude from the abdomen; and

WHEREAS: Approximately one in 2,229 individuals are born with gastroschisis in the United States and hundreds of Arkansans are among those affected by this birth defect; and

WHEREAS: The symptoms of this disease may affect small numbers of people, but the overall impact of birth defects such as gastroschisis affects many Americans and Arkansans; and

WHEREAS: Many Americans living with gastroschisis have serious and debilitating conditions that have a significant impact on the lives of those affected including but not limited to failure to thrive, slow growth, short bowel syndrome, multiple organ transplants and long-term feeding issues; and

WHEREAS: Individuals and families affected by gastroschisis often experience problems such as a sense of isolation, difficulty in obtaining an accurate and timely diagnosis, few treatment options and problems related to accessing or being reimbursed for treatment; and

WHEREAS: The cause of gastroschisis is relatively unknown, meaning patients and their families must bear a large share of the burden for raising funds for research and for bringing about awareness of this difficult condition; and

WHEREAS: Greater awareness for gastroschisis will benefit those affected by encouraging more funding for research and giving a voice to those born with gastroschisis and their family members;

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 July 30th, 2016, as

GASTROSCHISIS AWARENESS DAY

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to become more aware of Gastroschisis and the families affected by this condition.

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 April, in the year of our Lord 2016.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State