

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Chronic lung diseases, known collectively as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, or COPD, are the third leading cause of death in the United States. According to the American Lung Association, over 134,000 Americans die from this disease each year; and

WHEREAS: A slowly progressive disease, COPD is characterized by a decrease in the ability of the lungs to maintain the body's oxygen supply and to remove its carbon dioxide. As a result of this decrease in lung function, patients with COPD become short of breath after minimal exertion and must alter their lifestyles; and

WHEREAS: In the United States, more than 15 million people have been diagnosed with COPD, and a similar number go undiagnosed annually. Reports show that COPD costs the United States nearly \$32 billion a year; and

WHEREAS: Cigarette smoking is the most common cause of COPD. The disease slowly worsens over time, especially with continued smoking. Breathing in other kinds of lung irritants, such as pollution, dust or chemicals, over a long period of time may also contribute to COPD; and

WHEREAS: Awareness, early detection, effective treatment and patient education are crucial to the prevention or slowing down of this lung disease; and

WHEREAS: By becoming informed about COPD and the risk factors involved, our citizens will have better opportunities to lead healthier lives;

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 November, 2016, as

**CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH**

across the State, and I urge my fellow citizens to help raise awareness about the prevalence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and the serious effects associated with this disease.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of October, in the year of our Lord 2016.



*Asa Hutchinson*  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:

*Mark Martin*  
Mark Martin, Secretary Of State