

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: All people are encouraged to learn about options for care options, like hospice and palliative care, before they are confronted with a healthcare crisis and to share such wishes through appropriate advance care planning activities; and

WHEREAS: Hospice and palliative care empower people to live as fully as possible, surrounded and supported by family and loved ones, despite serious and life-limiting illness; and

WHEREAS: Hospice and palliative care bring patients and family caregivers the highest quality care delivered by an interdisciplinary team of skilled professionals that includes physicians, nurses, social workers, therapists, counselors, health aides, spiritual care providers and others who make the wishes of each patient and family a priority; and

WHEREAS: Advance care planning involves making decisions about the healthcare that an individual would want to receive if he or she were facing a serious or life-limiting illness or if they were unable to speak for themselves; and

WHEREAS: Through pain management and symptom control, caregiver training and assistance, and emotional and spiritual support, allowing patients to live fully up until the final moments surrounded and supported by the faces of loved ones, friends and committed caregivers, hospice and palliative care focus on quality of living; and

WHEREAS: Each year, hospice saves Medicare more than \$2 billion by providing solutions for physicians, care to patients and comfort to families anywhere, at any time; and

WHEREAS: Every year more than 1.65 million Americans living with life-limiting illness and their families receive care from the nation's hospice programs in communities throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS: More than 430,000 trained volunteers contribute 19 million hours of service to the hospice program annually;

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

NATIONAL HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE MONTH IN ARKANSAS

across the State, and I encourage citizens to increase their understanding and awareness of care at the end of life and to observe this month with appropriate activities and programs.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 29th day of September, in the year of our Lord 2016.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State