

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

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

- WHEREAS: Student-related housing fires in Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Washington, D.C., and other schools across the country have tragically cut short the lives of some of the youth of our Nation; and
- WHEREAS: Since January 2000, at least 171 people, including students, parents, and children have died in college-related fires; and
- WHEREAS: Approximately 87 percent of these deaths have occurred in off-campus occupancies; and
- WHEREAS: A majority of the students across the Nation live in off-campus occupancies; and
- WHEREAS: A number of fatal fires have occurred in buildings where the fire safety systems have been compromised or disabled by the occupants; and
- WHEREAS: It is recognized that automatic fire sprinkler systems and smoke alarms provide the necessary early warning to occupants and the fire department so that appropriate action can be taken; and
- WHEREAS: It is recognized that automatic fire sprinkler systems are a highly effective method of controlling or extinguishing a fire in its early stages, protecting the lives of the building's occupants; and
- WHEREAS: Many students are living in off-campus occupancies, Greek housing, and resident halls that are not adequately protected with automatic fire sprinkler systems and automatic fire alarm systems or adequate smoke alarms; and
- WHEREAS: It is recognized that fire safety education is an effective method of reducing the occurrence of fires and reducing the resulting loss of life and property damage; and
- WHEREAS: Students are not routinely receiving effective fire safety education throughout their entire college career; and
- WHEREAS: It is vital to educate the future generation of our Nation about the importance of fire safety behavior so that these behaviors can help to ensure their safety during their college years and beyond; and
- WHEREAS: By developing a generation of fire-safe adults, future loss of life from fires can be significantly reduced;

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 September 2017, as

**CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY MONTH**

across the State, and I urge all citizens join me in this special observance.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 24<sup>th</sup> day of March, in the year of our Lord 2017.



  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor

  
Mark Martin, Secretary Of State