

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

- WHEREAS: Prescription opioid use and abuse leading to addiction and catastrophic outcomes has become a national crisis; and
- WHEREAS: The leading cause of injury death in the United States is drug overdose, and a majority of the deaths from drug overdose involved an opioid; and
- WHEREAS: From 1999 to 2015, more than 183,000 people have died in the U.S. from overdoses related to prescription opioids; and
- WHEREAS: We are losing ninety-one people a day from opioid overdoses, and thirty-three thousand people died from opioid overdoses in the U.S. in 2015; and
- WHEREAS: Prescription opioids – drugs like oxycodone, hydrocodone, Percocet, and methadone – have recently become commonly prescribed. There has also been a 16-year increase in opioid overdose deaths; and
- WHEREAS: “Four out of five heroin abusers started with prescription pain killers.” – Marc Siegel, MD, NYU Langone Medical Center, Fox News Medical Correspondent, *American Opioid Epidemic*, “Wall Street Journal”, March 28, 2011; and
- WHEREAS: The newest estimates on the cost of opioid abuse to U.S. employers is estimated at \$18 billion in sick days, lost productivity, and medical expenses; and
- WHEREAS: Prescription opioids are often recommended for low back, neck, and musculoskeletal pain management; and
- WHEREAS: Over 100 million suffer with chronic pain, and an estimated 75 to 85 percent of all Americans will experience some form of pain back during their lifetime; and
- WHEREAS: There are many drug-free approaches to pain management available; and
- WHEREAS: Doctors of chiropractic are educated and trained to effectively address spinal and skeletal pain management of neck and back pain; and
- WHEREAS: Numerous published studies document chiropractic manipulation as effective for the management of neck and back pain;

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

DRUG FREE PAIN MANAGEMENT MONTH

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to raise awareness that non-pharmacologic treatment options, such as chiropractic care, are available and often able to safely and effectively relieve acute, subacute, and chronic pain.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 26th day of September, in the year of our Lord 2017.



Asa Hutchinson
Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Mark Martin
Mark Martin, Secretary Of State