

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Mental health is part of a person’s overall health; and

WHEREAS: One in five adults experiences a mental health problem in any given year; and

WHEREAS: Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States and the 2nd leading cause among young adults. 90% of people who die by suicide have an underlying mental illness; and

WHEREAS: Long delays, sometimes decades, often occur between the time symptoms first appear and when individuals get help; and

WHEREAS: Early identification and treatment can make a difference in successful management of mental illness and recovery; and

WHEREAS: It is important to maintain mental health and learn the symptoms of mental illness in order to get help when it is needed; and

WHEREAS: Every citizen and community can make a difference in helping end the silence and stigma that for too long has surrounded mental illness and discouraged people from getting help; and

WHEREAS: Public education and civic activities can encourage mental health and help improve the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness;

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 October 1st through October 7th, 2017 as

MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to shine a light on mental illness and fight the stigma, provide support, educate the public, and advocate for equal care.

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 August, in the year of our Lord 2017.



Asa Hutchinson

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Mark Martin

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State