

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

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: There are more than 205,000 licensed nurse practitioners (NPs) in the United States with nearly 3,000 NPs practicing in the state of Arkansas, providing high-quality, cost-effective, patient centered, personalized health care; and

WHEREAS: NPs have graduate, advanced education; most have master's degrees, and an increasing number have doctorates; and

WHEREAS: NPs order, perform, and interpret diagnostic tests, diagnose and treat acute and chronic conditions; and prescribe medications and other treatments; and

WHEREAS: More than 18 percent of NPs practice in rural settings with populations of less than 25,000; and

WHEREAS: NPs are truly partners in the health care of their patients. In addition to clinical services, NPs focus on health promotion, disease prevention, and health education and counseling, guiding patients to make smarter health and lifestyle choices; and

WHEREAS: The excellence, safety, and cost-effectiveness of the care provided by NPs is established and well documented; and

WHEREAS: The faith and trust that patients have in NP-delivered health care is evidenced by the more than 916 million visits made to NPs annually; and

WHEREAS: NPs provide health care to people of all ages and in diverse health care settings such as private office practice, hospitals, long-term care facilities, schools, state and local health departments, managed care facilities, and retail-based clinics;

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 12<sup>th</sup> through November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 as

**NURSE PRACTITIONER WEEK**

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to recognize the many contributions that this dedicated group of health care professionals have made in the 50 years since the first NP program was founded in 1965, serving patients in this great state and throughout the country.

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 October, in the year of our Lord 2017.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Asa Hutchinson".

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark Martin".

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State