

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

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Neuromyelitis Optica (NMO) is a rare autoimmune disorder in which the immune system cells and antibodies primarily attack the optic nerves and spinal cord; and

WHEREAS: NMO causes damage to the optic nerves and spinal cord which can lead to inflammation, pain, loss of vision, weakness, paralysis in the legs and arms, loss of sensation, and problems with bladder and bowel function; and

WHEREAS: NMO is more common in women than men, with greater than 80 percent of those affected being women, and this disorder occurs in all parts of the world; and

WHEREAS: NMO can occur at any age in children as young as 3 and adults as old as 90, and is most common between the ages of 40-50; and

WHEREAS: Early diagnosis of NMO is critical, and if untreated, can lead to devastating and irreversible effects. While there is currently no cure for NMO, with early detection, individuals diagnosed can receive helpful medical attention; and

WHEREAS: It is important to improve public awareness of NMO so it can be diagnosed at the earliest stage possible and proper treatment can begin;

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 March 2018 as

**NEUROMYELITIS OPTICA AWARENESS MONTH**

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to help raise awareness of this disorder.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, in the year of our Lord 2017.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor



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Mark Martin, Secretary Of State