

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

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Cigarette smoking is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. Statistics show that annually there are approximately 135,000 young people in the United States who have become regular smokers, and as many as one-third of them will die prematurely; and

WHEREAS: In Arkansas, 69,000 youths, now under 18, will ultimately die prematurely from smoking if no action is taken; and

WHEREAS: Cigarette smoking is responsible for more than 480,000 deaths per year in the United States, including more than 41,000 deaths resulting from secondhand smoke exposure. This is about one in five deaths annually, or 1,300 deaths each day. Carcinogens and toxins found to exist in third-hand smoke, which lingers in the clothing and hair of smokers, as well as in the air, carpets, and upholstery where smokers have been, are health hazards to infants and children; and

WHEREAS: Smoking kills more people than alcohol, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murders, and suicides combined – and thousands more die from other tobacco-related causes; and

WHEREAS: Tobacco use is a serious problem, and educating our youth is vital to reducing the number of young people involved in the usage of tobacco products; and

WHEREAS: Many youth-coalition partners throughout the State have actively participated in their communities and at the State Capitol on a day set aside for events and festivities that educate their peers about the dangers of tobacco use; and

WHEREAS: On March 21, 2018, the annual Arkansas Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs Free Kids Day will promote youth advocacy, leadership, and activism in fighting, alcohol use, smoking, and other drugs;

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 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018, as

**ARKANSAS ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND OTHER DRUG-FREE KIDS DAY**

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to join me in supporting these outstanding young people for their determination and their contributions to promoting tobacco education and control.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, in the year of our Lord 2018.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State