

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

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Autism, the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States, affects millions of families nationwide, with the Centers for Disease Control estimating one in sixty-five Arkansas children are diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder; and

WHEREAS: Autism is the result of a neurological disorder that can affect anyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic background; and

WHEREAS: Symptoms and characteristics of autism may present themselves in a variety of combinations and can result in the need for significant lifelong supports in order for an individual to learn, understand verbal and nonverbal communication, and develop healthy relationships; and

WHEREAS: The effort to address the needs of the autism community continues - doctors, therapists, and educators can help individuals with autism build necessary skills through access to early, accurate diagnosis and appropriate education, intervention, and therapy that are vital to growth and development; and

WHEREAS: It is imperative to ensure that persons diagnosed with autism have access to the support and services needed to pursue the full measure of personal happiness and to achieve their greatest potential; and

WHEREAS: The State of Arkansas is honored to take part in the annual observance of Autism Awareness Month and World Autism Awareness Day in the hope that it will lead to a better understanding of the disorder;

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 April 2018, as

**AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**

and April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, as

**WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY IN ARKANSAS**

across the State, and I encourage all Arkansans to work together to raise awareness of autism and the myriad issues surrounding autism, as well as to increase knowledge of the programs that have been and are being developed to support individuals with autism and their families.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, in the year of our Lord 2018.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State