

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

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every segment of a community, and finding solutions requires input and action from all Arkansans; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas is home to more than 700,000 children, who enrich our lives daily and represent the future of our state; and

WHEREAS: In 2017, there were 31,271 reports of child maltreatment in Arkansas, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, sexual exploitation, or abandonment, and 6,875 cases were found to be true, with 357 cases still pending; and

WHEREAS: Child maltreatment is associated with delays in cognitive, social, and emotional development, leading to poorer psychological and physical health in later years; and

WHEREAS: Protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children; and

WHEREAS: Effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the meaningful connections and partnerships created between child welfare, education, health, community and faith-based organizations, businesses, and law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS: Prevention of abuse and neglect remains Arkansas's goal for our children and families; and

WHEREAS: Communities are encouraged to promote programs and activities that benefit children and their families. It is important to work together as a state to increase awareness about child abuse and support the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment;

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

**CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION MONTH**

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, and businesses to increase their participation in supporting families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening our communities.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of February, in the year of our Lord 2018.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State