

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

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Every year, more than 10,000 state prisoners are released from incarceration and return to the communities of Arkansas, and an effective reentry process is critical to providing them with opportunities for success; and

WHEREAS: Over 50 percent of released offenders will return to prison within three years, which continues the costly cycle of criminal behavior and puts the citizens of Arkansas at greater risk of becoming victims of crime. It is imperative that the men and women reentering society receive the support and services they need to live crime-free and productive lifestyles and to avoid recidivism; and

WHEREAS: A vibrant reentry system is a critical component of the criminal justice reforms that were passed by the Arkansas General Assembly and signed into law in 2017; and

WHEREAS: Reentry provides offenders with the tools necessary to reclaim their lives and build better futures. It also increases public safety and reduces prison costs by lowering the number of former inmates who later return to incarceration with new convictions; and

WHEREAS: When fully supported by the community, reentry removes barriers offenders face in securing meaningful employment and healthcare, finding safe housing, and erasing the negative stigma often associated with having a criminal record; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas's reentry efforts depend on continued collaboration and a working partnership between governmental agencies, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, and volunteers across the state to provide consistent and sustained services, support, and guidance to returning inmates; and

WHEREAS: All Arkansans are encouraged to join together and promote public safety by supporting reentry efforts that offer opportunities, assistance, and hope for individuals returning home from incarceration;

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 22<sup>nd</sup> through April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018, as

**REENTRY AWARENESS WEEK**

across the State, and I encourage all citizens to realize the significance of reentry efforts in Arkansas.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of March, in the year of our Lord 2018.



  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor

  
Mark Martin, Secretary Of State