

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Heterotaxy syndrome is a congenital condition in which the internal organs are abnormally arranged in the chest and abdomen. Individuals with this condition have complex birth defects affecting the heart, lungs, liver, spleen, intestines, and other organs; and

WHEREAS: The public is largely unaware of heterotaxy syndrome, including many medical professionals; and

WHEREAS: Families struggle to educate medical teams and are often the only common thread between medical specialties; and

WHEREAS: The long-term outlook for people affected by heterotaxy depends on the specific organs that are affected in each individual. Mortality can be high among those with this condition who have major heart defects; and

WHEREAS: There is limited data available about the long-term outlook for adults who are diagnosed with heterotaxy. Because most people who are diagnosed in adulthood have less severe symptoms, they may have a better prognosis than children who are diagnosed before birth or during infancy; and

WHEREAS: This syndrome is equally common in boys and girls and can occur in all ethnic groups. An estimated 1 out of 10,000 babies are born with heterotaxy syndrome, and those who survive to adulthood find their condition unknown to the community; and

WHEREAS: Funding into causes and holistic treatment of heterotaxy syndrome are low; and

WHEREAS: Heterotaxy Syndrome Awareness Day provides an opportunity for families whose lives have been affected to celebrate life and to remember loved ones lost, to honor dedicated health professionals, and to meet others and know they are not alone; and

WHEREAS: The establishment of Heterotaxy Syndrome Awareness Day will also provide the opportunity to share experience and information with the public and the media in order to raise public awareness about Heterotaxy Syndrome;

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 May 4th, 2018, as

HETEROTAXY SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 6th day of April, in the year of our Lord 2018.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor

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Mark Martin, Secretary Of State