

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: As many as 15 million Americans have food allergies, with nearly six million of those being children under the age of 18; and

WHEREAS: Research shows that the prevalence of food allergy is increasing among children; and

WHEREAS: Eight foods cause the majority of all food allergy reactions in the U.S.: milk, soy, eggs, wheat, peanuts, tree nuts, fish and shellfish, with peanuts, milk and shellfish being the most common. Symptoms of a food-allergic reaction can include hives, vomiting, diarrhea, respiratory distress, and swelling of the throat; and

WHEREAS: Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death; and

WHEREAS: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, food allergy results in more than 200,000 ambulatory care visits a year involving children under 18. Reactions typically occur when an individual unknowingly eats a food containing an ingredient to which they are allergic; and

WHEREAS: The number of food allergy reactions requiring emergency treatment has risen sharply over the past decade, with a 9.8% increase per year in the incidence rate; and

WHEREAS: There is no cure for food allergy. Strict avoidance of the food is the only way to prevent an allergic reaction; and

WHEREAS: Organizations across the country are dedicated to improving the quality of life and the health of individuals with food allergies, and to providing hope through the promise of new treatments;

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 13th through May 19th, 2018, as

FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK

across the State, and I encourage all citizens to increase their understanding and awareness of food allergies and anaphylaxis.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 30th day of March, in the year of our Lord 2018.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor


Mark Martin, Secretary Of State