

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Substance use and mental health problems affect all communities nationwide. According to the 2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, an estimated 28.6 million Americans ages 12 or older are current illicit drug users; and

WHEREAS: Nearly 7.2 million young people report drinking alcohol in the past month, and about one in five Americans ages 12 or older smokes cigarettes. Additionally, in 2016, 11.5 million Americans misused pain relievers, and for more than half of them, the last pain reliever they misused came from a friend or relative; and

WHEREAS: An estimated 15.1 million people ages 12 and older in America are classified with an alcohol use disorder, and about 44.7 million adults have a mental illness; and

WHEREAS: The impact of mental and substance use disorders is apparent in our local community: 3 million people in Arkansas are affected by these conditions, either with themselves or family members; and

WHEREAS: The focus of National Prevention Week this May is to prevent substance use and promote mental health. This year's National Prevention Week theme, "Action Today. Healthier Tomorrow," reminds us that simple, daily acts of prevention, like helping a friend make positive choices or supporting a family member in need, can lead to healthier lives for each of us today, and stronger, happier communities tomorrow; and

WHEREAS: Through National Prevention Week, people will become more aware and able to recognize the signs of mental health and substance use disorders. Taking part in prevention-related activities and conversations can also help raise awareness of behavioral health issues and changes lives;

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

NATIONAL PREVENTION WEEK IN ARKANSAS

across the State, and I call upon our community to observe this week with compelling programs and events that support this year's theme, "Action Today, Healthier Tomorrow."

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 14th day of May, in the year of our Lord 2018.



Asa Hutchinson

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Mark Martin

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State