STATE OF ARKANSAS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: May 14, 2018, marks the sixth annual Childhood Apraxia of Speech Day during which awareness will be raised throughout Arkansas about Childhood Apraxia of Speech, an extremely challenging speech disorder in children; and

WHEREAS: Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS) causes children to have significant difficulty learning to speak and is among the most severe of speech deficits in children; and

WHEREAS: The act of learning to speak comes effortlessly to most children, but those with apraxia endure an incredible and lengthy struggle; and

WHEREAS: Without appropriate speech therapy intervention, children with apraxia are placed at high risk for secondary impacts in reading, writing, spelling, and other school-related skills; and

WHEREAS: Such primary and secondary impacts diminish future independence and employment opportunities if not resolved or improved; and

WHEREAS: Most children with apraxia of speech will learn to communicate with their own voices only if they receive early intervention, and appropriate, intensive, and frequent speech therapy; and

WHEREAS: Greater public awareness about childhood apraxia of speech is needed in Arkansas among community members, education professionals, policy makers, and elected officials; and

WHEREAS: Funders such as insurance providers, schools, and policy makers are encouraged to recognize the critical need to provide adequate speech therapy and other services so that the impact of this disorder is minimized and so that thousands of affected children can grow into productive, contributing, adult citizens; and

WHEREAS: These children and their families deserve great respect for their effort, determination, and resilience in the face of such obstacles;

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 14th, 2018, as

APRAXIA AWARENESS DAY

and citizens of Arkansas are encouraged to work within their communities to increase awareness and understanding of Childhood Apraxia of Speech.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 20th day of March, in the year of our Lord 2018.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State