

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Gastroschisis and omphalocele are the most common birth defects of the abdominal wall. In the United States, about 470 babies each year are born with gastroschisis and about 20 babies each year in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: The causes of gastroschisis remain unknown, but it is more common in babies of younger mothers; and

WHEREAS: During the past four decades, advances in neonatal care, parenteral nutrition, and surgical materials and technique have improved the outlook for gastroschisis to the extent that 90% of affected babies now survive; and

WHEREAS: Complications in those who survive with gastroschisis include chronic recurrent abdominal pain, bowel obstruction, and hernias; and

WHEREAS: Individuals and families affected by gastroschisis often experience problems such as a sense of isolation, difficulty in obtaining an accurate and timely diagnosis, few treatment options, and problems related to accessing or being reimbursed for treatment; and

WHEREAS: Greater awareness for gastroschisis will benefit those affected by encouraging more funding for research and giving a voice to those born with gastroschisis and their family members;

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 July 30th, 2018, as

GASTROSCHISIS AWARENESS DAY

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to become more aware of gastroschisis and the families affected by this condition.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 23rd day of July, in the year of our Lord 2018.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State