STATE OF ARKANSAS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) is an umbrella term describing the range of effects that can occur in an individual who was exposed to alcohol before birth, with fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) being the most recognizable condition along the spectrum; and

WHEREAS: Prenatal alcohol exposure is the leading preventable cause of birth defects and intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS: The exact number of people who have FASDs is unknown, but it is estimated that up to 1 in 20 U.S. school children may have an FASD. Given the high prevalence, the public health effect of FASD is at least on par with that of other neurodevelopmental disorders such as Autism and ADHD, and about 40,000 babies are born with effects of prenatal alcohol exposure annually; and

WHEREAS: The lifetime cost for one individual with FAS (does not include other FASDs) is estimated to be $2 million, with a combined cost to the United States for FAS alone over $4 billion annually; and

WHEREAS: Among pregnant women, 1 in 10 reported any alcohol use, and 1 in 33 reported binge drinking in the past 30 days; and

WHEREAS: About half of all pregnancies are unplanned, contributing to late entry into prenatal care and presenting a barrier to optimal pregnancy management, particularly during the crucial early weeks of embryonic development; and

WHEREAS: The good health and well-being of the people of Arkansas are enhanced by the support of a national effort to educate about and prevent FASDs;

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 September 2018, as

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS AWARENESS MONTH

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to join me in raising awareness about the effects of alcohol consumption during pregnancy with the unified message of "Pregnancy and alcohol don't mix. Why take the risk?"

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 27th day of July, in the year of our Lord 2018.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State