

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: The citizens of Arkansas stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they: provide safe, challenging, and engaging learning experiences that help children develop social, emotional, physical, and academic skills; support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends; build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders, and adult volunteers in the lives of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among youth, families, and adults; as well as engage families, schools, and community partners in advancing the welfare of our children; and

WHEREAS: Afterschool program leaders have provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children become successful adults; and

WHEREAS: Lights On Afterschool, the national celebration of afterschool programs held this year on October 25th, 2018, promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS: More than 28 million children in the U.S. have parents who work outside the home, and 15.1 million children have no place to go after school; and

WHEREAS: Over 65,000 Arkansas students grades K-12 participate in an afterschool program, and a total of 190,000 students would participate if a program were available to them; and

WHEREAS: Many afterschool programs across the country are facing funding shortfalls so severe that they are being forced to close their doors and turn off their lights; and

WHEREAS: The State of Arkansas is committed to investing in the health and safety of all young people by providing expanded learning opportunities that will help close the achievement gap and prepare young people to compete in the global economy;

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 October 25th, 2018, as

LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL DAY

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to engage in innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 25th day of September, in the year of our Lord 2018.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor


Mark Martin, Secretary Of State