

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Cerebral palsy (CP) is the most common motor disability in childhood. About 1 in 323 children has been identified with CP according to estimates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and

WHEREAS: CP is caused by abnormal development of the brain or damage to the developing brain that affects a child's ability to control his or her muscles; and

WHEREAS: The brain damage that leads to CP can happen before birth, during birth, within a month after birth, or during the first years of a child's life, while the brain is still developing; and

WHEREAS: The signs of CP vary greatly because there are many different types and levels of disability. The main sign that a child might have CP is a delay in reaching motor or movement milestones (such as rolling over, sitting, standing, or walking); and

WHEREAS: CDC has estimated that the lifetime cost to care for an individual with CP is nearly \$1 million; and

WHEREAS: There is no cure for CP, but treatment can improve the lives of those who have the condition. It is important to begin a treatment program as early as possible. Common treatments include medicines; surgery; braces; and physical, occupational, and speech therapy. No single treatment is the best one for all children with CP; and

WHEREAS: Increased public awareness of this disease, its risk factors, and its symptoms may improve lives of children across Arkansas as their families and doctors learn to recognize the warning signs of CP and enhance chances of early detection and improved quality of life; and

WHEREAS: More cerebral palsy research can help to develop reliable diagnostics and better therapies for Arkansans affected by CP;

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 March 2019, as

**CEREBRAL PALSY AWARENESS MONTH**

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January, in the year of our Lord 2019.



*Asa Hutchinson*

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

*John Thurston*

John Thurston, Secretary Of State