STATE OF ARKANSAS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Thousands of families across Arkansas are affected by metastatic breast cancer; and

WHEREAS: Early detection and routine diagnosis of breast cancer is often the focus, and we have seen tremendous progress in these areas over the last 30 years; and

WHEREAS: Having an advanced disease is quite different. Metastatic breast cancer patients continue to face many unique challenges, such as the emotional and physical demands of continual treatment; and

WHEREAS: Currently, no cure exists for metastatic breast cancer and those with metastatic breast cancer will continue treatment indefinitely with the goal of extending the best quality of life possible; and

WHEREAS: More than one in eight women in the U.S. will be affected by invasive breast cancer in their lifetimes. Specifically, in Arkansas, it is estimated that over 2,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 2019; and

WHEREAS: Breast cancer can spread quickly and inexplicably, regardless of the treatment or preventative measures taken. In the U.S., approximately 6 percent of newly diagnosed breast cancer cases are diagnosed as metastatic breast cancer, and it is estimated that 30 percent of early stage breast cancer cases will become metastatic or recurrent advanced cases. This devastating stage of breast cancer occurs when cancer spreads beyond the breast to other parts of the body, including the bones, lungs, liver, and brain; and

WHEREAS: This devastating disease affects all races and socioeconomic classes. Although white women see the greatest incidence of breast cancer, the mortality rate for African-American women with breast cancer is higher than in white women, and breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death for Hispanic women; and

WHEREAS: Metastatic breast cancer cuts short the lives of too many people in Arkansas, leaving a lasting effect on their families; and

WHEREAS: While there have been treatment advances in metastatic breast cancer, many of those advances have benefited a small subset of patients with specific types of metastatic breast cancer. Metastatic breast cancer remains incurable, yet there is reason to be hopeful. Extensive research efforts are underway to address finding a cure; and

WHEREAS: Https://ClinicalTrials.gov is a searchable database which provides patients, family members, and the public with information about current ongoing clinical research studies; and

WHEREAS: The State of Arkansas would benefit from greater awareness of the personal and social burdens of metastatic breast cancer, the needs of the patient, and promising research efforts in the development of more effective treatments; and

WHEREAS: Individuals diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer can speak with their physician to learn more about the disease, and find a support groups and services in their community or online; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas participates in Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Month to strengthen research efforts for effective treatments and offer hope to patients with this disease; and

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 April 2019, as

METASTATIC BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

across the state, and I encourage the citizens of Arkansas to become informed and aware of metastatic breast cancer.

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 March, in the year of our Lord 2019.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:

John Thurston, Secretary Of State