STATE OF ARKANSAS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS

WHEREAS: Tick bites can transmit several diseases such as Lyme disease, Alpha-Gal, Rickettsial infections, Tularemia, Ehrlichiosis, Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, or other Borrelia infections, (e.g. Relapsing Tick Fever), Bartonelloses, and newly emerging viruses, making diagnosis complicated and time-consuming; and

WHEREAS: Ticks are carried by mice, rabbits, squirrels, deer, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and other animals; and

WHEREAS: Removing embedded ticks quickly can decrease chances of infection. Ticks can be small and difficult to detect, and many people who contract tick-borne diseases do not recall being bitten. Prompt treatment with adequate antibiotic therapy in early stages of infection usually cures tick-borne disease, thereby preventing long-term consequences or death; and

WHEREAS: Lyme disease is an infectious disease caused by spirochetal bacteria called Borrelia burgdorferi. Lyme borreliosis and other tick-borne diseases are seriously underreported across the nation, as well as in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: Citizens and medical providers are encouraged to take all tick-borne diseases seriously; and

WHEREAS: Although the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention classifies Arkansas as a low incidence state for Lyme disease, it is important to report any signs of Lyme disease or other tick-borne illnesses to your doctor immediately. This ensures proper tracking, diagnosis, and treatment of these diseases are improved; and

WHEREAS: Through public awareness, early detection, and physician education the devastating effects of tick-borne diseases and co-infections across Arkansas can be minimized for citizens, especially children, who are most at risk;

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 May 2019, as

LYME AND TICK-BORNE DISEASES AWARENESS MONTH IN ARKANSAS

across the State, and I encourage our citizens to become more educated about these illnesses and how they can protect themselves from infection.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 10th day of April, in the year of our Lord 2019.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

John Thurston, Secretary Of State