STATE OF ARKANSAS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Tourette Syndrome (TS) is an inherited disorder characterized by uncontrollable movements and sounds, called "tics," that can strike people of all ethnic and racial backgrounds, with males affected three-to-four times more often than females; and

WHEREAS: TS symptoms generally appear before the age of ten. Unfortunately, many children are not diagnosed immediately due to a lack of information and understanding of this disorder - four years is the average time between onset of symptoms and diagnosis; and

WHEREAS: One of the most difficult aspects of this condition is the lack of public awareness and the unjustified and unfortunate reactions to patients with this disorder; and

WHEREAS: TS is often accompanied by other disorders such as obsessive-compulsive disorder and/or attention deficit disorder, complicating treatment and making it difficult to lead a productive life; and

WHEREAS: Each year, the Tourette Association of America recognizes May 15 through June 15 as Tourette Awareness Month. Affiliated chapters of TSA and other organizations across the country embark on campaigns to educate the public, healthcare professionals and educators about this underdiagnosed, and often misunderstood, neurological condition;

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 15th through June 15th, 2019, as

TOURETTE SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

across the State, and I urge my fellow citizens to raise awareness and understanding of TS and to promote support for individuals and families who are affected by this disorder.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 9th day of April, in the year of our Lord 2019.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

est:

John Thurston, Secretary Of State