

STATE OF ARKANSAS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Addiction is a disease, and the stigma associated with addiction must be addressed so that no one feels shame or disgrace because of a drug overdose; and

WHEREAS: According to 2017 data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, prescription and illegal drug overdoses are now the number one cause of accidental death in the nation. Arkansas is second in the nation for prescribing opioid medications, nearly twice as high as the national average, at 105.4 opioid prescriptions per 100 people; and

WHEREAS: Overdose Awareness Day is committed to providing a platform to acknowledge the grief felt by families and friends who have lost loved ones, support those who are survivors, and celebrate those who are in recovery; and

WHEREAS: Drug overdose knows no limits. It does not recognize victims' race, religion, socio-economic status, or family ties. Anyone can battle drug addiction and face a possible overdose, but recognizing overdose warning signs enables and empowers families and friends to prevent overdose-related death by calling for help; and

WHEREAS: Members of the community and organizations associated with drug misuse prevention and treatment will work to remove the stigma associated with overdose-related deaths and reinforce the belief that no one should feel shame or disgrace due to an overdose-related death or incident; and

WHEREAS: August 31st is recognized in communities around the world as a day to remember individuals who were lost, support families and educate Arkansas residents to overdose prevention strategies, programs and resources;

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 August 31st, 2019, as

OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 7th day of August, in the year of our Lord 2019.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

John Thurston, Secretary Of State