

# STATE OF ARKANSAS

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

### PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

- WHEREAS: Diaper need, the condition of not having a sufficient supply of diapers to ensure that infants and toddlers are clean, healthy, and dry, can adversely affect the health and welfare of infants, toddlers, and their families; and
- WHEREAS: National surveys report that one-in-three families experiencing diaper need at some time while their children are less than three years of age, and 39 percent of families delay changing a diaper to extend their supply; and
- WHEREAS: Children go through six to 12 diapers each day during the two to three years they wear diapers; and
- WHEREAS: Purchasing enough diapers to keep a baby or toddler clean, dry, and healthy can consume 14 percent of a low-wage family's post-tax income, making it difficult to obtain a sufficient supply; and
- WHEREAS: A supply of diapers is generally an eligibility requirement for infant and toddlers to participate in childcare programs and quality early education programs; and
- WHEREAS: Without enough diapers, babies, and toddlers risk infections and health problems that may require medical attention, and may prevent parents from attending work or school, thereby hurting the family's economic prospects and well-being; and
- WHEREAS: The people of Arkansas recognize that addressing diaper need can lead to economic opportunity for the state's low-income families and can lead to improved health for families and their communities; and
- WHEREAS: Arkansas is proud to be home to trusted community-based organizations that recognize the importance of diapers in ensuring health and providing economic stability for families and thus distribute diapers to families through various channels;

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 September 23<sup>rd</sup> through September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019, as

#### DIAPER NEED AWARENESS WEEK IN ARKANSAS

across the State, and I encourage the citizens of Arkansas to donate generously to diaper banks, diaper drives, and those organizations that distribute diapers to families in need to help alleviate diaper need in the state.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 29<sup>th</sup> day of July, in the year of our Lord 2019.



  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:

  
John Thurston, Secretary Of State