

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: The health and wellbeing of all our children throughout Our State are of paramount importance to Arkansas families and communities; and

WHEREAS: Thousands of children are born with birth defects every year, including approximately 40,000 children in the United States who begin life with one of more than thirty-five identified forms of congenital heart defects; and

WHEREAS: Congenital heart defects are among Arkansas's most common birth defects and they can be fatal due to their seriousness, insufficient effective medical intervention options and the limited availability of infant donor hearts; and

WHEREAS: The origins and symptoms of congenital heart defects are becoming more readily identifiable and the range of surgical options are expanding continuously thanks to doctors' and scientists' diligent research efforts and field experiences that extend our body of knowledge every day; and

WHEREAS: There is much to learn about the causes of and effective treatments for congenital heart defects and it is important for parents, pediatricians and nurses to recognize the warning signs associated with congenital heart defects among newborns so they may provide proper treatment as early as possible; and

WHEREAS: Many of Arkansas's families and communities are directly or indirectly affected by infant illness and death caused by congenital heart defects, and I applaud the efforts of doctors and scientists everywhere who work diligently to solve life's medical mysteries and to improve the quality of life for us all;

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 February 7th through February 14th, 2020 as

CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK

Across the State, and I encourage all citizens to increase awareness, education, and services for congenital heart defects which each year affect hundreds of babies in Arkansas.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 24th day of January, in the year of our Lord 2020.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor


John Thurston, Secretary Of State