

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: There are more than 7,000 diseases and conditions considered rare (a disease is classified as rare if it affects fewer than 200,000 people) in the United States, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH); and

WHEREAS: While each of these diseases may affect small numbers of people, rare diseases as a group affect an estimated 30 million Americans; and

WHEREAS: Many rare diseases are serious and debilitating conditions that have a significant impact on the lives of those affected; and

WHEREAS: Only 5 percent of rare diseases have FDA approved treatments, and millions of Americans still have rare diseases for which there is no approved treatment; and

WHEREAS: Individuals and families affected by rare diseases often experience problems such as diagnosis delay, misdiagnosis, difficulty finding a medical expert, and lack of access to treatments or ancillary services; and

WHEREAS: While the public is familiar with some rare diseases and sympathetic to those affected, many patients and families affected by less widely known rare diseases bear a large share of the burden of funding research, and raising public awareness to support the search for treatments, and thousands of residents of Arkansas are among those affected by rare diseases since nearly one in 10 Americans have rare diseases; and

WHEREAS: The last day of February, each year is recognized globally as Rare Disease Day, with thousands of patients and caregivers, medical professionals, researchers, companies developing orphan products to treat people with rare diseases, and others in the United States around the world will participate in this observance.

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 29th, 2020, as

ARKANSAS RARE DISORDER DAY

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 3rd day of February, in the year of our Lord 2020.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

John Thurston, Secretary Of State