

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: There are nearly 1 million people in the United States living with multiple sclerosis (MS), a chronic, disabling disease of the central nervous system for which there is no cure; and

WHEREAS: Up to 50% of those diagnosed with relapsing-remitting MS may develop a progressive form of the disease within 10 years, characterized as progressive worsening of neurologic function over time; and

WHEREAS: MS is at least three times more common in women than in men, and is typically diagnosed when individuals are in the prime of their lives, between the ages of 20 and 50; and

WHEREAS: MS can cause many symptoms, including blurred vision, loss of balance, poor coordination, slurred speech, tremors, numbness, extreme fatigue, problems with short-term memory and concentration, paralysis, depression and more; and

WHEREAS: Due to these symptoms and progression of the disease, people with MS, their families, caregivers, employers, and the entire health care system carry substantial clinical and economic burdens over of a period of many years; and

WHEREAS: Lost productivity related to loss of employment or the need to retire early due to disease progression may be the largest single factor that contributes to the nonmedical financial, familial and societal costs of MS; and

WHEREAS: Early and appropriate treatment, including the use of disease-modifying therapies, can markedly reduce disease activity and accumulation of disability, potentially allowing patients to have a more active and independent lifestyle;

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 March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020, as

**PROGRESSIVE MS AWARENESS DAY IN ARKANSAS**

and to increase awareness of this disabling disease and support people living with progressive forms of MS.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, in the year of our Lord 2020.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

  
John Thurston, Secretary Of State