

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

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH) is a birth defect that occurs during fetal development causing a hole in an infant's diaphragm, allowing organs to migrate through the hole and crowding the abdomen, and ultimately may cause the infant's lungs to be small and underdeveloped; and

WHEREAS: Since 2000, an estimated 700,000 babies worldwide have been born with CDH; and

WHEREAS: CDH is as common as spina bifida and cystic fibrosis but is not as well-known; and

WHEREAS: 1,600 newborns are affected by CDH in the United States every year with only about half surviving past infancy; and

WHEREAS: Those with CDH often endure multiple surgeries and possible medical complications, which can include heart defects, pulmonary complications, gastric and intestinal problems, and developmental delays and may require respiratory and medicinal support for years; and

WHEREAS: Raising awareness of this congenital defect will help bring about acceptance and support for those suffering with CDH and their families and will lead to urgently needed research and medical advances;

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 April 2020, as

**CONGENITAL DIAPHRAGMATIC HERNIA AWARENESS MONTH**

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, in the year of our Lord 2020.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor



Attest



John Thurston, Secretary Of State