

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Myasthenia Gravis is an autoimmune disease in which the body's immune system mistakenly attacks the receptors in muscles that pick up acetylcholine, a chemical messenger that transmits the signal from the nerves to the muscles. Antibodies block and progressively destroy the signal and interrupt the nerve-muscle communication. This causes fluctuating levels of weakness that vary from patient to patient and day to day as the immune process, along with other factors, invariably alter the patient's ability to experience sustained contraction; and

WHEREAS: Myasthenia Gravis has a hallmark presentation of worsening with repetitive activity and improving with rest. A few examples of repetitive activity include talking, chewing, extended periods of standing or walking, cooking, showering, blow drying hair, gardening and driving. In some cases, medication allows for an almost full return to repetitive activity, but for many, even with pharmaceutical management, activity requires significant modification, frequent rest and sometimes, abstaining altogether; and

WHEREAS: For some Myasthenics, even with medical intervention, their symptoms are poorly controlled and require significant changes to their lifestyles. Quality of life is a continual issue for those who struggle with Myasthenia Gravis; and

WHEREAS: Quality of life is a continual issue for those who struggle with Myasthenia Gravis. In spite of advancing treatments, many patients still struggle with fatigue, general weakness and emotional loss as they find themselves dealing with an unpredictable disease, sometimes harsh side effects from treatment and lack of clinical understanding that can put Myasthenics in harm's way; and

WHEREAS: Unfortunately, Myasthenia Gravis lacks consensus on salient information and even the fundamental basics are often misunderstood or altogether misconstrued. This can lead to incorrect patient education and expectation and poses the risk for delay in treatment, withdrawal of care or misdiagnosis; and

WHEREAS: Clinical understanding of the potential severity of the disease and how to correctly and quickly triage a patient in emergency status leads to invalidation and dismissal of the disease itself and poorly conveys very common emotional aspects brought by the disease;

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 the month of June 2020, as

MYASTHENIA GRAVIS MONTH 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 11th day of May, in the year of our Lord 2020.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor