

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: More than 85,600 Americans, including 410 Arkansans, had their sight restored last year as a result of corneal transplants; and

WHEREAS: Eye banks across Arkansas and across the country provided the tissue that makes these life-enhancing procedures possible; and

WHEREAS: Eye banks in the U.S. are able to secure a sufficient number of corneas to avoid shortages or wait lists, unlike the scarcity of other donated organs and tissue that are in demand; and

WHEREAS: In addition to the more than 51,000 Americans who received corneal transplants, eye banks in the U.S. provided more than 28,000 corneas for patients overseas and another 23, 230 corneas for research and education; and

WHEREAS: Arkansans can make the decision to give the gift of sight to others by arranging to become eye donors after their deaths. In this way, Arkansas donors can help to ensure that eye banks will continue to have the precious tissue needed for sight-restoring, corneal-transplant operations;

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 November 2020, as

EYE DONATION MONTH IN ARKANSAS

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to join me in recognizing the generosity of eye donor families who have made possible the more than 400 sight-restoring, corneal transplant operations 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 27th day of October, in the year of our Lord 2020.



Asa Hutchinson

Asa Hutchinson, Governor