

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Birth defects are common, costly, and critical; and

WHEREAS: Birth defects affect an estimated 1,120 infants (about 3 percent of all births) in Arkansas each year; and

WHEREAS: Birth defects are a leading cause of death in the first year of life; and

WHEREAS: Birth defects can occur in any family regardless of race, ethnicity, health history, or economic status; and

WHEREAS: Steps can be taken to reduce the chance that a child will be born with a birth defect, such as taking a daily vitamin with folic acid before and during pregnancy, getting regular prenatal care, becoming up-to-date with vaccinations, reaching a healthy weight before pregnancy, and stopping the use of alcohol or drugs during pregnancy; and

WHEREAS: Early identification of a child with a birth defect coupled with early intervention services typically improves the child's quality of life;

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 January 2021, as

NATIONAL BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION MONTH

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 29th day of December, in the year of our Lord 2020.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Asa Hutchinson".

Asa Hutchinson, Governor