

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

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: A recent survey of Arkansas students showed 15,000 of 12- to 17-year-olds reported using drugs in the last month; among them, 93.33% report using marijuana in the last month, 3.34% reported misusing pain relievers, and 8.35% of all 12- to 17-year-olds used alcohol in the last month; and

WHEREAS: Nine out of ten people with substance abuse problems started using by age 18; and

WHEREAS: Eighty-two thousand 18-to-25-year-old Arkansans stated they used drugs in the last month; and

WHEREAS: According to a study by Millenium Health, Arkansas leads the nation in the number of people testing positive for methamphetamine use. Meth positivity rates in the state totaled 28.7% last year, far ahead of Iowa, which ranked second in the nation with 20.8%, and poly-drug overdose deaths, with meth and fentanyl combined, are also increasing, with fentanyl presence observed in meth, cocaine, marijuana, and even alcohol; and

WHEREAS: It is not whether drugs are legal or illegal, prescribed or bought on the street, that determines the ability to make smart choices regarding drug use, and knowing the facts about drugs could save your life, or that of a friend or family member;


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 October 16<sup>th</sup> thru October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, as

**TRUTH ABOUT DRUGS WEEK**

in the State of Arkansas, and I call upon government officials, educators, volunteers, and citizens to reach out to young people and educate them on the dangers of drug use.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September, in the year of our Lord 2021.



  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:

  
John Thurston, Secretary of State