TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME -- GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: One out of every six adults in the United States lack basic reading skills, meaning 36 million people may have difficulties reading a job application, understanding written instructions, or browsing the Internet; and

WHEREAS: Children of parents with low literacy skills have a 72 percent chance of being at the lowest reading skills themselves; and

WHEREAS: There are nearly 300,000 Arkansans aged 18 and older without a high school diploma; and

WHEREAS: Adult education programs contribute to solving these challenges by helping Americans in their educational journey to achieve basic skills and become prepared for a career and college.; and

WHEREAS: Adult education has served close to two million Arkansans since 1965, with more than 457,718 individuals passing the GED® and/or earning their high school diploma since 1966; and

WHEREAS: Adult education programs in community colleges, four-year colleges, and public schools offer low cost, high-value education and training programs that can upgrade the skill set of our citizens, and increased participation in these programs has an impact on accelerating growth toward a healthier economy; and

WHEREAS: Adult education works cooperatively with local, state and federal agencies to meet the goals and needs of sometimes underserved Arkansans, and it is timely and appropriate that Arkansas adult educators are recognized for their dedication to preparing individuals for productive employment and enriched lives;

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 September 18th through September 24th, 2022, as

ADULT EDUCATION WEEK

across the State, and I urge all residents to become familiar with the services and benefits offered by adult education and to support and participate in these programs.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 3rd day of August, in the year of our Lord 2022.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:

John Thurston, Secretary of State