TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Every day, dedicated primary care doctors provide quality care in every part of the state. Whether it is in an emergency room in the rural south or delivering a newborn in the suburbs, volunteering in a health center in an underserved area or working in their own clinic, family physicians apply their skills, training, and experience to make the best decisions to ensure the best health outcome for every patient; and

WHEREAS: Family physicians continue to be an invaluable resource for COVID-19 diagnosis, treatment, and vaccination; and

WHEREAS: Family physicians lead the charge to embrace telemedicine; and

WHEREAS: Family physicians are a source of innovation and resourcefulness to deliver quality, cost-effective care and where family physicians provide comprehensive, holistic healthcare and act as the leader in their healthcare team; and

WHEREAS: In areas where there are more primary care providers per person, death rates for cancer, heart disease, and stroke tend to be lower; and

WHEREAS: Better care is achieved in urban and rural communities that have an adequate supply of primary care practitioners, thereby resulting in lower infant mortality, higher birth weights, and immunization rates at our above national standards despite social disparities; and

WHEREAS: A primary care-based system may cost less because patients experience fewer hospitalizations, less duplication, and more appropriate technology; and

WHEREAS: Family physicians decrease costly and unnecessary care by reducing outpatient visits, inpatient admissions, ER visits, and surgeries; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas family physicians make up the foundation of our healthcare system, are economic drivers in their communities, and are heroes everywhere; and

WHEREAS: These dedicated healers deserve an occasion to be recognized for their commitment to care and amazing achievements;

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 August 4th, 2022, as

ARKANSAS FAMILY PHYSICIANS DAY

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 14th day of June, in the year of our Lord 2022.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:

John Thurston, Secretary of State