

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Epilepsy is a common neurological disorder, characterized by seizures that are unpredictable in frequency, affecting people of all ages, with onset most often occurring in childhood and older adulthood; and

WHEREAS: Epilepsy is a spectrum disease comprised of many diagnoses and experiences and includes a wide range of seizure types, comorbidities, severity, and outcomes varying from person to person; and

WHEREAS: Nearly 3.4 million people in the United States live with epilepsy, and about 32,800 of those cases are in Arkansas. It is the fourth most common neurological disorder in the United States after migraine, stroke, and Alzheimer's disease; and

WHEREAS: Approximately more than 324,000 Hispanic Americans and more than 579,000 Black, non-Hispanic Americans live with epilepsy in the United States; and

WHEREAS: Those with epilepsy require access to affordable, comprehensive, physician-directed and person-centered healthcare. Delays in accessing these treatments increases the likelihood of breakthrough seizures and related complications including injury, disability, or even Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP). However, many affected individuals either lack access and/or cannot afford proper treatment; and

WHEREAS: While treatments exist to treat seizures, many still live with uncontrolled seizures, and the epilepsy-related medical costs associated with uncontrolled epilepsy are two to ten times higher than those of controlled epilepsy. It is estimated that \$28 billion of healthcare costs can be attributed to epilepsy or seizures, with an average annual spending of \$15,000 per person;

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 2022, as

NATIONAL EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH IN ARKANSAS

across the State, and I encourage the public to learn more about epilepsy through local affiliates and educational activities.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 20th day of October, in the year of our Lord 2022.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

John Thurston, Secretary of State