

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Smoking remains the single most preventable cause of premature death in our society; and

WHEREAS: Cigarette smoking is responsible for more than 400,000 deaths annually in the United States. Additionally, more than 40,000 nonsmokers die from secondhand smoke exposure; and

WHEREAS: More Americans die every year from tobacco-related diseases than from AIDS, alcohol, car accidents, fires, illegal drugs, murder, and suicides combined; and

WHEREAS: According to research published by the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, 20.5 percent of adults in Arkansas are smokers. Over \$1.2 billion are spent annually on health care costs directly related to smoking, of which \$293.1 million is Medicaid spending; and

WHEREAS: For years, millions of smokers have participated in the Great American Smokeout, a day on which they give up cigarettes for 24 hours; and

WHEREAS: Some of those who give up cigarettes for the day may go on to give up the habit entirely; and

WHEREAS: Quitting smoking is proven to improve health, reduce disease burden, and increase longevity; and

WHEREAS: By virtue of the above, the Great American Smokeout, which is held on the third Thursday of November, has potential for improving health;

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 17th, 2022, as

GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT IN ARKANSAS

across the State, and I encourage all tobacco users to demonstrate they can quit for the day and perhaps longer.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 12th day of October, in the year of our Lord 2022.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:


John Thurston, Secretary of State