

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: The health and safety of all Arkansans is important to the prosperity, happiness, and well-being of our state, families, and communities;

WHEREAS: Sickle cell disease is a group of inherited disorders that affects hemoglobin, the molecule in red blood cells that carries oxygen to cells throughout the body; and

WHEREAS: Sickle cell disease generates atypical hemoglobin molecules, which deforms red blood cells into a sickle shape. These sickle cells can get stuck in blood vessels and block blood flow, resulting in pain, organ damage, repeated infections, and low red blood cell count; and

WHEREAS: A chronic condition, sickle cell disease can affect any organ, including the kidneys, lungs, and spleen. Research indicates patients experience many severe complications, including stroke, infections, and pulmonary embolism, and have a shorter life span than the general population; and

WHEREAS: According to the Centers for Disease Control, sickle cell disease is the most common inherited blood disorder in the United States, affecting approximately 100,000 Americans, and it is estimated that more than 1,000 Arkansans have sickle cell disease; and

WHEREAS: Sickle cell disease appears in about 1 out of every 16,300 Hispanic American births and 1 out of every 365 African American births; and

WHEREAS: While there is no widely available cure for sickle cell disease, it is critical that those affected by this disease have access to quality, affordable care, and that research of this disease continues to find new treatments;

WHEREAS: The United States National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration have improved their development of both drug and genetic therapies; and

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 2022, as

SICKLE CELL DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 9th day of September, in the year of our Lord 2022.



Asa Hutchinson
Asa Hutchinson, Governor

John Thurston
John Thurston, Secretary of State