

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Sickle cell disease (SCD) is the most common inherited blood disorder in the United States, affecting approximately 100,000 Americans, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS: The genetic disease, named for the sickle-shaped red blood cells it causes, leads to severe pain, serious infections, and organ damage. The severity of SCD varies, with many people facing a shortened life expectancy and a host of recurring, debilitating, and expensive health problems; and

WHEREAS: It is estimated that about 1,300 Arkansans have a sickle cell disease diagnosis, and it appears in about 1 out of every 16,300 Hispanic American births and 1 out of every 365 African American births; and

WHEREAS: Sickle cell disease generates atypical hemoglobin molecules, which deforms red blood cells into a sickle shape; and

WHEREAS: Symptoms of sickle cell disease include recurring episodes of pain, repeated infections, and low red blood cell count; and

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

WHEREAS: There is no widely available cure for sickle cell disease, but 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;

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 June 19, 2022, as

SICKLE CELL DISEASE AWARENESS 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