TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME — GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires action from everyone in our community; and

WHEREAS: Our state's children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: Child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that can have lifelong consequences for victims of abuse; and

WHEREAS: Protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children; and

WHEREAS: Effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the meaningful connections and partnerships created between child welfare, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, businesses and law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS: Prevention of abuse and neglect remains Arkansas's goal for our children and families; and

WHEREAS: Communities are encouraged to promote programs and activities that benefit children and their families. It is important to work together as a state to increase awareness about child abuse and support the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment;

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 April 2021, as

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION MONTH

across the state, and I encourage my fellow citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, and businesses to increase their participation in supporting families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening our communities.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 11th day of March, in the year of our Lord 2021.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:

John Thurston, Secretary of State