TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Colorectal cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States among men and women combined, but there is currently no cure; and

WHEREAS: Colorectal cancer is one of the few cancers that can be prevented with timely screening, and due to COVID-19, in at least one national study, the total number of colonoscopies and biopsies performed declined nearly 90 percent by mid-April 2020, compared to the same period the previous year; and

WHEREAS: Individuals born in the 1990s have double the risk of colon cancer and quadruple the risk of rectal cancer as those born around 1950; and

WHEREAS: It is estimated that over 145,000 people were diagnosed with colorectal cancer and over 53,000 people died of colorectal cancer in 2020; and

WHEREAS: Colorectal cancer incidence and mortality rates are disproportionately higher among African Americans; and

WHEREAS: The national goal established by the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable is to strive to increase timely colorectal cancer screening rates to 80 percent in every community for all Americans eligible for screening; and

WHEREAS: It is critical that all people, of all ages, know the signs and symptoms of the disease; and

WHEREAS: Observing a Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month during the month of March would provide a special opportunity to offer education on the importance of early detection and screening;

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 March 2021, as

COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH IN ARKANSAS

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 24th day of February in the year of our Lord 2021.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:

John Thurston, Secretary of State