

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Ehlers-Danlos syndromes (EDS) are a group of disorders that affect the body's connective tissues including the skin, joints, blood vessels, gut, and many other organs and tissues; and

WHEREAS: EDS affects more than one in 5,000 people, and both males and females of every age and race. It is a chronic, life-long condition; and

WHEREAS: Hypermobility Spectrum Disorder (HSD) is diagnosed when the musculoskeletal complications of joint hypermobility and joint instability (ease of injury, joint pain, and dislocations for example) arise in a person who does not have the defining features of an underlying syndrome such as EDS or other heritable disorders of connective tissue; and

WHEREAS: In addition, several related disorders are observed in a number of people with EDS and with HSD. These add complexity to the presentation of their condition and its management; and

WHEREAS: A network of EDS and HSD support groups can help connect those managing life with these conditions as well as better informing the health care community and the public; and

WHEREAS: Early and accurate diagnosis can provide the opportunity to create life-saving medical plans and improve quality of life; and

WHEREAS: There is limited treatment for the Ehlers-Danlos Syndromes and no known cure; and

WHEREAS: Further medical research and awareness can bring hope for treatment and a cure;

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 May 2021, as

EHLERS-DANLOS SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

AND

HYPERMOBILITY SPECTRUM DISORDER 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 26th day of April, in the year of our Lord 2021.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

John Thurston, Secretary of State