TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: The social work profession for generations have worked to strengthen the well-being and meet the basic needs of all people, especially people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty; and

WHEREAS: The social work profession is a diverse profession that allows people of various generations, ethnicities, sexual identities, and religious backgrounds to make an immediate positive impact on our nation and world; and

WHEREAS: The social work profession is one of the fastest growing professions in the United States, with more than 800,000 people expected to be employed as social workers by 2028; and

WHEREAS: Social workers work in all parts of our society to meet people where they are and empower them to live to their fullest potential; and

WHEREAS: The social work profession, more than many other professions, has expansive boundaries that allow social workers to work in a variety of settings, including schools, centers for veterans, the military, hospitals and mental health centers, corporations and local, state and federal government; and

WHEREAS: Social workers for generations have worked with other professions, community groups, lawmakers, civil rights, and other organizations to bring equal rights for all, including women and people who are African American, Latino, Native American, LGBTQ and of various cultural, ethnic and religious groups; and

WHEREAS: The social work profession has been in the forefront of pushing for changes that have made our society a better place to live, including a minimum wage, improved workplace safety, and social safety net programs that help ameliorate poverty and hunger; and

WHEREAS: During times of crisis, including war and natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes and hurricanes, social workers have been and continue to stand ready to help our nation. Especially throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, social workers have played a key role in helping individuals, families and communities cope with the effects of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS: Social workers stand ready and have the expertise to help our nation handle some of its most pressing issues, including equal rights for all, improved health care and mental health care for all; immigration reform; income inequality and the environmental impact of climate change;

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

NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH IN ARKANSAS

across the state, and I urge all citizens to join in celebration and support of the social work profession.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 23rd day of February, in the year of our Lord 2021.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest: John Thurston, Secretary of State